



*Minutes of the . .*

# Annual Conferences

OF THE

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

1923-1944

Compiled and edited by

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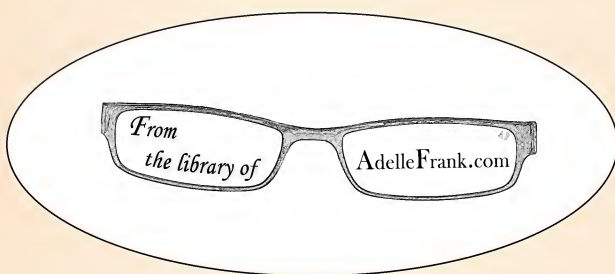
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## Introductory Statement

He who would understand the spirit of the Church of the Brethren should study the records of her national conference, long known as the Annual Meeting, now commonly spoken of as the Annual Conference or merely Conference. The first recorded minutes of Annual Conference take us back to 1778, though there were sessions before that year. The business brought before Annual Conference reflects the thinking of the Church. The questions considered and the discussions of these questions in open Conference reflect the democratic spirit prevailing throughout the entire brotherhood.

It has long been the custom to print and distribute annually the Minutes of Annual Conference among the membership of the local congregations. From time to time the minutes have been printed in book form. Outstanding among these publications is the edition of 1909 in which the recorded minutes from 1778 on were bound in one volume of nine hundred forty-four pages. There have also been several occasions in which the Revised Minutes were collected and printed, the latest being the revision of 1922.

In 1943 Conference asked the General Ministerial Board and the General Mission Board (as Directors of the Brethren Publishing House) to authorize the publication of Annual Meeting Minutes since 1922 "in some convenient form with the necessary revision, classification and condensation."

These two boards entrusted the work to H. L. Hartsough, J. E. Miller and Ora W. Garber. This committee did not feel that it should revise, drop or change the minutes but rather should group them under a system, which, when properly indexed, would enable the reader to find readily the Conference action or actions on any vital subject. When one understands that the minutes of a single year cover as many as fifty pages one will realize that the task was not an easy one and the arrangement could not be perfect. A careful use of the Index should help the reader to find the information desired.

*J. E. Miller*

Elgin, Illinois





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## 1923, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

### Revision of Brethren's Card

*Query, 1922*

The First Church of Altoona, Pa., asks the General Conference, assembled at Winona Lake, Ind., June, 1922, through the Middle District of Pennsylvania, that Conference endorse the doctrinal statement made in the Brethren's Card.

Answer of Conference.—We request the Tract Examining Committee to make a careful examination of the card called the Brethren's Card, looking toward a revision of the same, and request all who desire changes to forward the same to the Committee.

### *Report of Committee, 1923*

We made a call through "The Gospel Messenger" for suggestions on this revision. A number were submitted. These were all prayerfully and carefully considered. We recommend the use of the Brethren's Card as appears below:

### THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Formerly Called Dunkers

1. This body of Christians originated early in the eighteenth century, the church being a natural outgrowth of the Pietistic movement following the Reformation.

2. Firmly accepts and teaches the fundamental evangelical doctrines of the inspiration of the Bible, the personality of the Holy Spirit, the virgin birth, the deity of Christ, the sin-pardoning value of his atonement, his resurrection from the tomb, ascension and personal and visible return, and the resurrection, both of the just and unjust (John 5: 28, 29; 1 Thess. 4: 13-18).

3. Observes the following New Testament rites: Baptism of penitent believers by trine immersion for the remission of sins (Matt. 28: 19; Acts 2: 38); feet-washing (John 13: 1-20; 1 Tim. 5: 10); love feast (Luke 22: 20; John 13: 4; 1 Cor. 11: 17-34; Jude 12); communion (Matt. 26: 26-30); the Christian salutation (Rom. 16: 16; Acts 20: 37); proper appearance in worship (1 Cor. 11: 2-16); the anointing for healing in the name of the Lord (James 5: 13-18; Mark 6: 13); laying on of hands (Acts 8: 17; 19: 6; 1 Tim. 4: 14). These rites are representative of spiritual facts which obtain in the lives of true believers, and as such are essential factors in the development of the Christian life.

4. Emphasizes daily devotion for the individual, and family worship for the home (Eph. 6: 18-20; Philipp. 4: 8, 9); stewardship of time, tal-

ents and money (Matt. 25: 14-30); taking care of the fatherless, widows, poor, sick and aged (Acts 6: 1-7).

5. Opposes on Scriptural grounds: War and the taking of human life (Matt. 5: 21-26, 43, 44; Rom. 12: 19-21; Isa. 53: 7-12); violence in personal and industrial controversy (Matt. 7: 12; Rom. 13: 8-10); intemperance in all things (Titus 2: 2; Gal. 5: 19-26; Eph. 5: 18); going to law, especially against our Christian brethren (1 Cor. 6: 1-9); divorce and remarriage except for the one Scriptural reason (Matt. 19: 9); every form of oath (Matt. 5: 33-37; James 5: 12); membership in secret, oath-bound societies (2 Cor. 6: 14-18); games of chance and sinful amusements (1 Thess. 5: 22; 1 Pet. 2: 11; Rom. 12: 17); extravagant and immodest dress (1 Tim. 2: 8-10; 1 Pet. 3: 1-6).

6. Labors earnestly, in harmony with the Great Commission, for the evangelization of the world, for the conversion of men to Jesus Christ; and for the realization of the life of Jesus Christ in every believer (Matt. 28: 18-20; Mark 16: 15, 16; 2 Cor. 3: 18).

7. Maintains the New Testament as its only creed, in harmony with which the above brief doctrinal statement is made.

Committee: T. T. Myers, E. B. Hoff, J. P. Dickey, James M. Moore.

Voted that this card be referred to the Tract Examining Committee.

### **Time of Receiving Annual Reports**

Because much important work of the church is entrusted to her General Boards and Committees and because these reports furnish the church a record of what is being done and because these reports are frequently passed over hurriedly at the close of the Conference session, the General Boards and Committees, in joint session, petition Annual Conference to adopt the rule that the Annual Reports of the General Boards and Committees be received immediately after the conclusion of "Unfinished Business."

Voted that this be granted as the order of business.

### **Boards Recommend Council of Promotion**

(a) We recommend a Council of Promotion, composed of one member chosen by each of the General Boards and Committees, and one member appointed by Standing Committee, said appointee not to be a member of the General Boards or Committees or an employé of the Brethren Publishing House.

(b) We recommend that the Council of Promotion assist the co-operating General Boards and Committees in shaping, co-ordinating and promoting the work entrusted to said Boards and Committees by Conference in such a way as to serve the best interests of the church.

(c) We recommend that the Council of Promotion employ a General Director, whose term of office shall be three years, and whose name shall be presented to Conference for approval.



(d) We recommend to Conference Bro. J. W. Lear as General Director.

Voted that these recommendations be adopted.

Member named by Standing Committee and confirmed by Conference was F. F. Holsopple.

### **Sunday School and Christian Workers' Boards**

The following paper was passed in joint session of the General Sunday School Board and the General Christian Workers' Board, April 17, 1923:

Believing that the most adequate and unified program of religious education in the Church of the Brethren can best be promoted under the direction of one Board, we the members of the General Sunday School Board and the General Christian Workers' Board recommend that a board of five members be appointed to be known as the General Board of Religious Education.

(A similar request came from Eastern Virginia.)

Answer by Conference.—Resolved, (1) That the General Christian Workers' Board and its work be merged with the General Sunday School Board; (2) that, in order that no partiality be reflected toward the personnel of these two Boards, this Conference relieves each member of each of these Boards of his membership in said Boards; (3) that this Conference elect five persons, one to serve five years, one for four years, one, three years, one, two years, one, one year, and thereafter the term of office of each member is to be five years, to constitute the General Sunday School Board of the Church of the Brethren; and (4) that, since this new Board may not be able to organize at once, this Conference requests and authorizes the former members of these two Boards, with their former organizations, to serve as special committees to carry on their respective work during this interim until the General Sunday School Board be properly organized to do this work.

General Sunday School Board of the Church of the Brethren: C. S. Ikenberry, 1928; H. K. Ober, 1927; Eva Lichty Whisler, 1926; E. M. Studebaker, 1925; L. W. Shultz, 1924.

### **The General Ministerial Board**

1. The General Ministerial Board respectfully petitions the General Conference, assembled at Calgary, to grant it a place with the other Boards in the General Financial Budget.

Answer of Conference.—Decided that this request be granted.

### **Aid Society Votes at District Meeting**

We, the members of the Nettle Creek congregation, ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting of Southern Indiana, to formulate and pass on rules, regulating the recognition and voting power of the Aid Society delegates, sent to their District and Annual Meetings.

Answer: Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer by Conference.—Conference advises that the State Districts may decide as to District representation and that the general organization be effected as at present and approved by Conference.

### **Attendance at Communion**

#### *Queries, 1922*

(a) We, the members of the Arcadia church, petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting of Southern Indiana, to say whether one local church may forbid members of another local church to sit at their communion table because such members have not fully conformed to the minutes of Annual Meeting.

Sent to Annual Meeting.

(b) We, the members of the Arcadia church, petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting of Southern Indiana, to say whether any member, lay or official, has the right, without the advice or consent of the church or official brethren, to forbid another member of the same local church to sit at the communion table because such member does not fully conform to the minutes of Annual Meeting.

Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer of Conference.—Decided that the whole matter of Communion attendance be placed in the hands of a committee of three, to report to next Annual Meeting.

Committee: A. C. Wieand, I. B. Book, J. W. Lear.

#### *Report of Committee, 1923*

We, your committee, appointed by the Annual Conference of 1922, into whose hands "the whole matter of communion attendance was placed," respectfully submit the following:

We consider that two fundamental questions are raised with reference to fitness to participate in the love feast:

(a) The question of faith in the sacraments to be observed, and in the fundamental doctrines of which they are emblems.

(b) The question of loving obedience or willing attitude of heart to live up to these truths.

#### **Scriptural Teachings on the Subject**

1. In the order of services, as instituted by our Lord, he first washed his disciples' feet as an example of loving, humble service; then he ate with them a meal, which Paul calls the Lord's supper, in token of Christian fellowship and brotherhood; and, last of all, he instituted the communion of his body and blood.



2. Concerning the communion observance, the Scriptures may be summarized as follows:

(a) The basic truth, as taught by Jesus in John 6: 48-63, i. e., Jesus is the bread of life. Any one eating his flesh and drinking his blood has eternal life. The Word and the Spirit constitute the life, available to the believer.

(b) This basic truth Jesus enshrined in the sacrament of the communion: the loaf representing his body ("the Word made flesh"), and the cup symbolizing his blood ("poured out for the life of the world") (Matt. 26: 26-29; Mark 14: 22-25, Luke 22: 14-23). Paul also understood the sacrament of the communion to symbolize participation in the death and life of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 10: 14-17; 11: 23-26).

#### Worthy and Unworthy Participation

1. Some of the things which the Scriptures mention as disqualifying are as follows: Insincerity, hatred, faction, strife, jealousy, malice, railing, covetousness, reveling, fleshly lusts, adultery, wickedness, ungodliness, denying the Lord, etc.

2. The Scriptures teach that under such circumstances it is "impossible to eat the Lord's supper" and that those who are thus "guilty of the body and blood of the Lord" are not benefited, but rather made worse, and because of their guilt "eat and drink judgment unto themselves."

3. In order to participate in a worthy manner, the communicant must experience in his heart the identification with Christ, which these emblems signify, i. e.,

(a) An acknowledgment of unworthiness in ourselves.

(b) Living faith in Jesus Christ, as our all-sufficient Savior.

(c) Loving, loyal obedience to him as our Lord.

4. This would require, in the participant, a process of self-examination and a renewal of vows of consecration to his Lord.

#### The Duty of the Church

1. The church should provide for such preparation of heart

(a) By a carefully-prepared and appropriate sermon, and

(b) By an opportunity for private conferences, for all who may desire.

2. If anything is known to exist that would disqualify any member or members from communing in the true spirit, the matter should be adjusted beforehand, with a view of preparing such persons for the service.

3. In case matters can not be adjusted, prior to the service, and in case they are Scripturally disqualified, the church would be justified in debarring such persons from the communion until adjustments may be made.

Committee: A. C. Wieand, I. B. Book, J. W. Lear.

Voted that the report be accepted.

### Texts for Vacation Church Schools

We, the Black Swamp church, in council assembled, ask District Meeting of Northwestern Ohio, 1923, to petition Annual Meeting to authorize the publishing of a book or books, to be used in our Vacation Church Schools, and Mission Study Classes, giving the history of the lives of missionaries and leaders of the Church of the Brethren.

Answer by District Meeting: Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer of Conference: Decided that this matter be referred to the General Sunday School Board.

### Budget Proposed for 1923

General Mission Board .....	\$355,000.00
General Education Board .....	50,000.00
General Sunday School Board .....	21,000.00
Temperance and Purity Committee .....	4,000.00
Dress Reform Committee .....	2,500.00
Child Rescue Committee .....	1,000.00
General Ministerial Board .....	8,000.00
Music Committee .....	1,000.00
American Bible Society .....	1,000.00

Total .....	\$443,500.00
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Answer by Conference.—Proposed budget for 1923 adopted.

### Budget Proposed for 1924

(This budget is approximate, but can not be final at this early date)

General Mission Board .....	\$390,000.00
General Educational Board .....	50,000.00
General Sunday School Board .....	21,000.00
General Ministerial Board .....	8,000.00
Temperance and Purity Committee .....	4,000.00
Dress Reform Committee .....	2,500.00
Music Committee .....	1,000.00
Tract Examining Committee .....	1,000.00
American Bible Society .....	1,000.00
Child Rescue Committee .....	1,000.00

Total .....	\$479,500.00
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Answer by Conference.—Voted that this be the proposed budget for 1924.

### Location of the 1924 Conference

Requests for the Conference of 1924 came from Southern Kansas and the First District of Virginia. The Conference was assigned to the Eastern Zone.

## **1924, Hershey, Pennsylvania**

### **Relations Between Ministerial and Mission Boards**

#### *Query, 1923*

Inasmuch as part of the duties, prescribed by Conference for the General Ministerial Board, have to do with the handling of funds, therefore, we respectfully ask the advice of this Conference as to matters of incorporation.

Answer of Conference.—Decided that a committee of five be appointed, one each to be selected by the General Ministerial Board and the General Mission Board, the other three by the Conference, who shall carefully study the relations of said boards and the matter of incorporation of the General Ministerial Board.

Members of committee named by Conference: I. B. Book, M. J. Brougher, S. H. Hertzler.

#### *Report of Committee, 1924*

We, your committee, appointed by the Annual Conference of 1923, to carefully study the relation of the General Ministerial Board and the General Mission Board and the matter of incorporation of the General Ministerial Board, respectfully submit the following:

Referring to the plan of the Ministerial Board adopted by the General Conference of 1921, we recommend:

1. That sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 remain as they are.
2. That section No. 6 be eliminated.
3. That section No. 7 stand as it is.
4. That the expense necessary for time, travel and literature to carry out the foregoing plan be provided for by the general budget.
5. That all apparent overlapping of the work of the General Ministerial Board and the Home Department of the General Mission Board be referred to the Council of Promotion.
6. As to the incorporation of the General Ministerial Board we report adversely.

Committee: I. B. Book, M. J. Brougher, S. H. Hertzler, H. C. Early (for General Mission Board), D. H. Zigler (for General Ministerial Board).

Answer.—Report accepted.

### **Merging Reform Committees**

#### *Query, 1923*

Whereas, our church should make a more strenuous effort to spread the Gospel of the simple life, engage and encourage a more practical peace program and help to promote and solve the temperance problem, and

Whereas, there are three General Committees in our Brotherhood; viz., the Dress Reform, the Temperance and the Peace Committees, more or less duplicating the work of each other; we ask that these said committees be eliminated and one central committee be established by the General Conference, known as the Moral Welfare Board, which shall have charge of all general peace and reform activities of our church. The secretary of said board shall give his full time to the investigation and promotion of all interests of moral welfare, and receive financial support from the General Conference budget.

Answer.—Inasmuch as we need to be more aggressive along such lines of work, we, the District Meeting of Southwestern Kansas and Southeastern Colorado, recommend the passage of the paper by Annual Conference, and that a general committee of five be appointed.

Answer by Conference.—Decided that this matter be referred to the Council of Promotion, with instruction to report to Conference of 1924.

#### *Report of Council of Promotion, 1924*

We, the Council of Promotion, to whom was referred the paper from Southwestern Kansas and Southeastern Colorado pertaining to the combination of the three general committees; viz., Dress Reform, Temperance and Purity, and Peace, submit herewith the following report:

(a) In order that more efficiency as well as economy may be secured in the promotion of Temperance, Social Purity, Simple Life, Dress, Peace, and other moral reforms in the social and civic life of our church and country, we recommend that this Conference combine the three general committees of the Brotherhood, viz., Temperance and Purity, Dress Reform, and Peace under one general board consisting of five capable, representative persons to be known as the Welfare Board.

(b) The finances necessary for the efficient promotion of the work of the Welfare Board shall be provided from the General Conference Budget.

(c) The members of the above named board shall be appointed for five years except those first appointed, one of whom shall be appointed for one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years and one for five years.

J. A. Dove, Chairman; J. S. Noffsinger, Secretary

Answer.—Motion passed to accept the report.

#### **Our Relation to War and Peace**

##### *Query, 1923*

Harmonyville church asks Annual Conference, through District Conference, to appoint a committee to formulate an authoritative statement of the whole matter of our relation to the subject of war and peace.

Answer of District Conference.—Passed to Annual Conference.



Answer of Conference.—Decided that this matter be referred to the Peace Committee, to report to the Conference of 1924.

*Report of Peace Committee, 1924*

The paper from Harmonyville church which the Conference has referred to the Peace Committee for answer asks for the formulation of "An authoritative statement of the whole matter of our relation to the subject of war and peace." This gives it a large scope of inquiry.

1. *The Testimony of the Fathers.* At the organization of our church, when a few Brethren, as reformers, divesting themselves of all previous teaching and of all preconceived opinions, prostrated themselves in prayer and supplication, with the New Testament alone open before them; desiring the Holy Spirit to interpret to them its teachings—desiring thus to be led and influenced in the determination and formation of their religious beliefs and tenets, among the findings is that the New Testament, in letter and spirit, is clearly and definitely committed against war and in favor of peace; and that the follower of the Lord Jesus should not engage in war or learn the arts thereof.

2. *The Continuance of This Teaching.* This same principle has been diligently and persistently taught by our people throughout our course and history by faithful preaching, writing and teaching—both in public and in personal presentation of the subject. So entirely has this been the case that every applicant for membership in the church has been instructed on the subject and asked to assent to it as a Christian principle and teaching of the New Testament. Adherence to this principle has generally been held as a test of membership.

3. *The Testimony of Those Affected.* A faithful and effective testimony to our declaration against war and militarism has been borne by our brethren in time of existent war, as well as in time of peace—and always as a matter of conscience, and in fidelity to the letter and spirit of the New Testament teachings and in devotion to their Lord and the church.

In defense of the Gospel, men—old and young men—have exemplified to the end, their conviction, and suffered imprisonment and even death, rather than turn against what they believed their Savior taught and exemplified, and do violence to their conscience. Such tests were experienced during all the wars of our country. Let it be remembered, however, that our government made provision for those whose consciences or church tenets forbade their bearing or using weapons of carnal war.

4. *Reasons for This Position Taken and Maintained by the Church:*

(1) The teachings and precepts of Jesus while here upon earth.

(2) All the teachings and precepts of our Lord on the subject of non-resistance in personal conduct or in attitude towards militant service were exemplified by him in his contact with men and authorities.

(3) The Acts of the Apostles, setting forth the teachings of the apos-

tles and their successors—and their own conduct—during the organization of the church.

(4) The epistolary writings harmonize throughout with the teaching and example of our Lord.

5. *Conference Utterances.* The General Annual Meetings or Conferences of the church have, from time to time, both during the times of peace and in the trying ordeals of war, given earnest admonition and encouragement to the members to remain faithful to their vows and testify to their faith. It has formally memorialized the government and authorities both by petitions and through personal committees asking that provisions be made for those who cannot conscientiously engage in militant warfare; also asking that laws be enacted providing for settlement of differences by peaceful arbitration instead of resort to war, and urging the establishment of peaceful relations among the nations.

Conference has also, from time to time, given out clear and definite expression to our teachings of peace and our opposition to war, together with scriptural references in defense thereof. An official and definite and analytic statement was sent out from the Special Conference held at Goshen, Ind., Jan. 9, 1918. This Conference was called for the specific purpose of considering the exigencies that were then so grievously upon us on account of the war that was then so furiously raging upon the world; and into which our own country had been precipitated.

Especially on account of the complete and analytic presentation of the scriptural grounds for our opposition to war and our contention for peace, as well as for its clear and definite utterances, we quote the following from the "Goshen Statement":

"Therefore this Conference of the Church of the Brethren hereby declares her continued adherence to the principles of nonresistance, held by the church since its organization in 1708.

"I. We believe that war or any participation in war is wrong and entirely incompatible with the spirit, example and teachings of Jesus Christ.

"II. That we can not conscientiously engage in any activity or perform any function contributing to the destruction of human life.

#### "THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR BELIEF"

"I. *The Old Testament Was Fulfilled in Christ, Hence Not the Christian's Guide.*

"Think not that I came to destroy the law or the prophets: I came not to destroy, but to fulfill' (Matt. 5: 17). 'For Christ is the end of the law unto righteousness to every one that believeth' (Rom. 10: 4). 'So that the law is become our [Jews'] tutor to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith is come, we are no longer under a tutor' (Gal. 3: 24, 25). 'For he [Christ] is our peace, who made both one, and brake down the middle wall of partition, having abolished in his

flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; that he might create in himself of the two one new man, so making peace' (Eph. 2: 14, 15). 'God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by divers portions and in divers manners, hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds' (Heb. 1: 1, 2).

*"II. Some Teachings of the New Testament, the Christian's Rule of Action.*

"1. Christians are servants of Christ. 'But if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his' (Rom. 8: 9). 'Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus' (Phil. 2: 5).

"2. Love motivates the Christian's conduct. 'Hereby know we love, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren' (1 John 3: 16). 'Ye have heard that it was said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy: but I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you; that ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven' (Matt. 5: 43-45). 'But I say unto you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you, bless them that curse you, pray for them that despitefully use you. To him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other;—And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. And if ye love them that love you, what thank have ye? for even sinners love those that love them. And if ye do good to them that do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners do the same. But love your enemies, and do them good—and your reward shall be great and ye shall be sons of the Most High' (Luke 6: 27-35).

"3. Human life sacred. 'Ye have heard that it was said to them of the old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, that every one who is angry with his brother shall be in danger of the judgment; and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council' (Matt. 5: 21, 22).

"4. Physical resistance and revenge incompatible with Christian conduct. 'Ye have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: but I say unto you, Resist not him that is evil: but whosoever smiteth thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also' (Matt. 5: 38, 39). 'Render to no man evil for evil. Take thought for things honorable in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as in you lieth, be at peace with all men. Avenge not yourselves, but give place unto the wrath of God: for it is written, Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord. But if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him to drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good' (Rom. 12: 17-21). 'Then saith Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into its place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword'



(Matt. 26:52). 'Jesus answered [Pilate], My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence' (John 18:36). 'For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh (for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds)' (2 Cor. 10:3, 4).

"5. Suffering for righteousness' sake a Christian's duty and privilege. 'Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you' (Matt. 5:11, 12). 'Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to councils, and in their synagogues they will scourge you; yea and before governors and kings shall ye be brought for my sake, for a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, be not anxious how or what ye shall speak: For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father, that speaketh in you' (Matt. 10:16-20). 'If ye were of the world, the world would love its own; but because ye are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you' (John 15:19). 'But call to remembrance the former days, in which after ye were enlightened, ye endured a great conflict of sufferings; partly, being made a gazing stock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, becoming partakers with them that were so used. For ye both had compassion on them that were in bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your possessions, knowing that ye have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one. Cast not away therefore your boldness, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, having done the will of God, ye may receive the promise' (Heb. 10:32-36).

"6. The instructions of John the Baptist to the soldiers (Luke 3:14), and the Lord's suggestion that they sell their cloaks, and buy swords, and his final saying that two swords are sufficient (Luke 22:35-38), when studied in the text and context, are against military warfare, rather than in its favor.

### "III. *The Lord's Example*

"'Because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps; who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: who his own self bare our sins in his body upon the tree, that we, having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed' (1 Peter 2:21-24).

"'And the soldiers led him away within the court—and they call to-

gether the whole band. And they clothe him with purple, and plating a crown of thorns, they put it on him; and they began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! And they smote his head with a reed, and spat upon him, and bowing their knees worshiped him. And when they had mocked him, they took off from him the purple, and put on his garments. And they led him out to crucify him' (Mark 15: 16-20, and to the end of the chapter). 'And when they had come unto the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand and the other on the left. And Jesus said, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do' (Luke 23: 33-34, and to the end of the chapter).

#### *"IV. The Teachings and Example of the Apostolic Church*

"The Apostolic church and early church fathers endured, without physical resistance, the persecutions of the Jewish and heathen peoples, and ever taught and consistently followed the principles of peace.

#### **"THE CHURCH'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT**

"I. We are loyal citizens of this great nation, which has been and is now a safeguard of our religious liberties and the protector of our homes and loved ones.

"II. Our attitude towards civil governments and rulers should be carefully taken into account. We are taught that governments are ordained of God, and that the administrators of government are ministers of God. As such we are to be in subjection to them (Rom. 13: 1-7). We are admonished to pray for the rulers and magistrates and for those in authority (1 Tim. 2: 1-2).

"The word and authority of God, however, must be final and supreme over all. And when the demands of men and of governments conflict with the Word of God, we are then bound by the latter, regardless of consequences. 'Whether it is right in the sight of God to hearken unto you [magistrates] rather than unto God, judge ye' (Acts 4: 19). 'But Peter and the apostles answered and said, We must obey God rather than men' (Acts 5: 29). Therefore we urge—

"First. That our various congregations pray without ceasing for the rulers of our nation that the nation may again enjoy peace, and that blood-shedding and destruction may cease.

"Second. That they contribute to the relief of human suffering, both in men and money.

"Third. That they express their gratitude to God for our favored position and freedom from the devastation of war, by giving freely of our substance for constructive relief work such as Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., Friends Relief Work, or through our own Service Committee.

"Fourth. We urge our people to put forth their utmost effort in this world crisis, laboring with their hands, cultivating our fields and gardens and vacant lands, planting only such crops as will contribute to the real

necessities of life; also that they practice the greatest economy in clothing, food, and all supplies which may mechanically or otherwise, aid in the production and transportation of food, clothing and fuel, so that a suffering and hungering world may be clothed, warmed and fed."

*Four things may yet be said:*

1. It is of interest to note that the teaching of peace and opposition to war as held and taught by our church from the beginning is being accepted and advocated by Christian preachers and teachers in nearly all denominations.

2. It is also accepted and advocated by leading statesmen and economists throughout the world. But while many base their opposition to war and advocate peace on social, economic and humane reasons; ours is for religious reasons—because the New Testament teaches it. Accepting this would work out the highest social, economic and humane good in the world. All of which is another proof that the Bible is the only infallible and sufficient revelation of God to the world.

3. In making this report the Peace Committee feel that, while our church has believed and taught this principle, and has practiced it with becoming consistency, we should be more diligent in propagating it and giving it to the world. Also, that as a church, we should be more active and efficient in constructive helpfulness to our stricken and suffering humanity.

4. While we believe that our holding in regard to bearing arms and engaging in carnal warfare is clear, reasonable and scriptural, let us remember that the same Holy Scriptures teach us to dwell together in unity and harmony among ourselves. That our lives be consistent with our claims for exemption from military service because of conscience. "Put on therefore, as God's elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving each other, if any man have a complaint against any; even as the Lord forgave you, so also do ye: and above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to the which also ye were called in one body" (Col. 3: 12-15).

Peace Committee, J. M. Henry, Sec.

Answer.—Report accepted and referred to the General Welfare Board for further study.

### **Licensing Persons to Preach**

*Query, 1923*

Fairfax congregation asks Annual Meeting of 1923, through District Meeting of the Eastern District of Virginia, to prescribe a method of procedure, formalities or requirements, to be observed in licensing preachers.

Answer by District Meeting.—Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer by Conference.—Decided to refer this matter to the General Ministerial Board, to report to Conference of 1924.



*Report of General Ministerial Board, 1924***Suggested Procedure for Licensing Persons to Preach**

When a church in business session has voted to license one of her number to preach, the following form is suggested for the use of the officiating minister:

**Statement by the Officiating Minister**

God has ordained that the Gospel shall be preached. It is committed to the church to carry out his will. You have signified your purpose to commit yourself to this high calling.

**Examination**

1. Do you willingly engage in this work from a love for God and anxiety for lost souls?

2. Do you accept the Bible as the Inspired Word of God, and do you believe in the Deity and the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ?

3. Will you strive to live in harmony with and teach the doctrine and principles of the Bible, as interpreted by the Church of the Brethren?

**Authority Given**

You are, therefore, by the authority of the church, authorized to preach the Gospel. The prayer life and the study of God's Word are essential to your development and to fit you for a life work in the ministry toward which you should strive. Faithful obedience to the teaching of the Word is required of God's servants.

**A Short Prayer of Consecration**

General Ministerial Board.

Answer.—By motion the report was adopted.

**Requests From the Council of Promotion**

1. In view of the fact that the work of caring for homeless children is largely localized in the various State Districts, we recommend that the Committee on Homeless Children be eliminated, and its functions be transferred to the Welfare Board.

Answer.—We so recommend.

2. Believing that the Brotherhood should have a larger representation in the Council of Promotion outside of the regular boards, we recommend that two members be appointed by Standing Committee instead of one as is provided in the original plan, and that these representatives be elected on alternate years and the length of term be two years.

Answer.—Request granted.

3. In view of the fact that the asking of the 1924 Conference Budget is out of proportion to our record of giving, we submit the following revision of the Budget to the Annual Conference:

Mission Board .....	\$290,000.00
Sunday School Board .....	5,000.00
Educational Board .....	3,500.00

Ministerial Board .....	3,000.00
Welfare Board (Peace, Temperance and Purity, Dress Reform, Child Rescue) .....	3,500.00
American Bible Society .....	1,000.00
Missionary Deficit .....	15,000.00
Miscellaneous .....	7,000.00
Total .....	\$328,000.00

The expenses of the Music Committee and the Tract Examining Committee for this year to be paid out of the Annual Meeting Treasury.

Answer.—Revised budget approved.

4. Proposed budget for 1925:

Mission Board .....	\$353,000.00
Sunday School Board .....	12,000.00
Educational Board .....	5,000.00
Ministerial Board .....	4,000.00
Welfare Board .....	4,000.00
American Bible Society .....	1,000.00
Music Committee .....	500.00
Tract Committee .....	500.00
Total .....	\$380,000.00

Answer.—By motion the budget was approved.

### Peace Statement

Whereas, the Church of the Brethren at her beginning having adopted, among others, the cardinal principle of nonresistance, and having cherished and enjoyed the fruits of this virtue throughout the more than two centuries of her existence, and

Whereas, this doctrine, though generally understood among us, having never been publicly proclaimed to the world and the state, and thus causing deplorable confusion and misunderstanding whenever serious military exigencies arose, now therefore, while peace and quiet have been restored to the extent that we may exercise calm and unrestrained deliberations, be it

Resolved, that we declare to the church, to the state, and to the world:

(1) That loyalty to Jesus Christ whose we are, and whose spirit changeth not, forbids us to engage in any warfare whatsoever, for whatsoever cause, or purpose or end, wherein carnal weapons are employed to inflict the destruction of life and property; and that all such are in direct conflict with his teachings and his revealed will: whose precepts and example teach us to "overcome evil with good"; and these things we proclaim to the entire world. And

(2) That while we pledge our full loyalty to the government under

which we live, and desire at all times to render due benevolence, we cannot without violation of the allegiance we owe to Christ our Commander, and to our individual consciences, bear arms and carnal weapons for the destruction of human life. And

(3) That these declarations constitute the expression of our faith restated and proclaimed to the entire world, and after most mature deliberation and prayer.

The McFarland congregation requests that the District Meeting of Northern California send this paper to Annual Meeting for consideration.

Request granted.

Answer.—Referred to General Welfare Board.

### **Delegates in Smaller State Districts**

We, the Bow Valley church, of Western Canada, ask District Meeting to request Annual Meeting to grant weak Districts the privilege to decide the number of delegates a local church may send to the District Meeting.

Answer.—We grant to Districts having a membership of 1,000 or less the privilege to decide the number of delegates to District Meeting. Former decisions in conflict with this decision are hereby repealed.

### **Mothers and Daughters' Association**

We, the Spring Creek congregation, petition Annual Meeting, through the District Meeting of Middle Indiana, to adopt the organization of the Mothers and Daughters' Association as one of the departments of Christian work recognized by the Annual Meeting.

Answer by District Meeting.—Passed to Annual Meeting and recommended that this work be referred to the Sunday School Board.

Answer.—Answer by District accepted.

### **Regional Ministerial Conferences**

Smith Fork congregation petitions Annual Meeting, through District Meeting of Northern Missouri, to provide for regional ministerial conferences in the various school regions for the following purposes:

(a) To stimulate evangelistic efforts throughout the church.

(b) To facilitate better regional organization.

(c) To study the problems of the pulpit and the general congregational activities, including the Sunday school and the young people's organization, the training of laymen for various Christian services, and other matters, the consideration of which would contribute to the progress of the cause of Christ.

(d) To help to maintain the feeling of good fellowship and unity among the officials of the church.

(e) To make progress throughout the Brotherhood more uniform.

Request granted.

Answer.—Referred to Ministerial Board.

### Securing Conference Committees

Harmonyville church, Pa., asks Annual Conference, through District Conference, to adopt the following rules for granting committees to churches:

(1) A written statement of the difficulty, to accompany the request, and to be in the hands of the clerk of the Conference thirty days before the first session of Standing Committee.

(2) An authoritative statement in writing, if the difficulty is personal, that the provisions of Matt. 18 have been fully complied with, and a statement of the action of the church.

(3) An authoritative statement in writing, whether the matter be personal or one of church polity, that a committee from the District in which the call originates has been sent for its adjustment, and

(4) A signed statement from said committee giving its findings in the matter at issue.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer.—Plan adopted.

### Promoting Peace Education

We, the Bridgewater congregation, petition Annual Meeting, through the District Meeting of Second District of Virginia:

(a) To endorse the appeal to the Churches of Christ in all countries, recently adopted by the Society of Friends (Quakers) throughout the United States, Great Britain and the Colonies, on the question of war, as published in the "Gospel Messenger" of March 22, 1924, pages 180-181, and

(b) To provide for a comprehensive program of education for the promotion of peace.

Passed by District Conference of Second District of Virginia.

Answer.—Referred to General Welfare Board.

### Location of the 1925 Conference

Conference answered three requests for the 1925 Conference by granting it to the Central Zone.

## 1925, Winona Lake, Indiana

### Anointing Sick

#### Query, 1924

Whereas, there are many calls for the anointing service from people who are not members of the Church of the Brethren; but who have implicit faith in the anointing of the sick in harmony with James 5:13-16;



Whereas, by our present ruling, elders and ministers are not permitted to minister to the desires made in the aforesaid requests;

Whereas, some elders and ministers who have responded to the requests have been brought before District Meeting and have been severely dealt with;

And, whereas, it was the custom of Jesus and the apostles to do good to all men and heal the sick when they came in contact with the same,

Therefore, we, the Markle church, petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting of Middle Indiana, to reconsider all past decisions and permit elders and ministers to be governed by circumstances and the guidance of the Holy Spirit when receiving such calls.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer.—Referred to a committee of three.

Committee: A. C. Wieand, J. A. Dove, J. H. Longenecker.

#### *Report of Committee, 1925*

We as a church are not entering as fully as we might into our privileges in the matter of the anointing and divine healing, and we feel led to urge a renewed and prayerful study of the scriptural teachings on this subject and the benefits to accrue to the church by entering more fully into our privileges in Christ in this matter. Therefore, we reconsider all past decisions and permit elders and ministers to be governed by circumstances and the guidance of the Holy Spirit when receiving such calls.

Answer of Conference: Report adopted.

### **Resident and Non-resident Membership**

#### *Query, 1924*

Middle Creek congregation requests District Meeting of Western Pennsylvania to consider the resident and non-resident membership problem as it relates to our financial quota.

Answer of the District.—After much consideration we find the question one of difficulty and one that affects the whole Brotherhood. We therefore petition the Conference of 1924 to appoint a committee of three to take under consideration the whole matter of membership lists, and the proper care and responsibility of congregations thereto, and report to Conference of 1925.

Answer by District accepted.

Committee: D. H. Keller, S. S. Blough, J. S. Flory.

#### *Report of Committee, 1925*

#### **Where to Hold Membership**

- I. Three classes of members may be recognized: Resident, temporarily non-resident, and non-resident members.
- II. Resident members, those living within the bounds of an organized congregation, should hold their membership in said congregation.

But this rule is not intended to annul the past usage of the church which permits members living near a congregational line to hold membership in the adjoining congregation by consent of both congregations.

- III. Temporarily non-resident members, those located temporarily, as young brethren and sisters in college, high school and the like, should hold their membership in the home congregation.
- IV. Non-resident members, those living in isolated sections, out of reach of the regular services of the church, should place their letters with some congregation of the Brotherhood rather than hold them privately.

#### Membership Lists

- I. Each congregation should keep a correct list of its members.
  - 1. This list should be corrected and brought up to date at least once a year.
  - 2. Resident and non-resident members should be listed separately.

#### Care of Members

- I. Resident Members.
  - 1. It is the duty of the congregation to provide religious services for all the members of the congregation so far as practicable.
  - 2. It is advised that each congregation provide for pastoral care of its members.
    - a. The abler congregations will do well to provide full time pastors.
    - b. Weaker congregations should provide at least part time pastoral service.
    - c. Two or more weak congregations in close proximity with one another may unite in the support of a pastor who will divide his labors among them.
  - 3. In addition to providing means of spiritual development for its members, each congregation should strive, through its duly constituted officials or otherwise, to induce every member to attend the services of the church regularly and as far as possible lead them into lives of Christian service.
- II. Non-resident Members.
  - 1. The congregation, through its pastor or elder or by other means, should keep in touch in some manner with its non-resident members and seek by this means to render them spiritual comfort and counsel.
  - 2. The congregation should co-operate with its non-resident members in recommending them to the immediate care of a pastor or elder where they live, whenever this is possible.

### Finances of the Congregation

- I. It is advised that each congregation have a system of budgeting its finances.
- II. This budget, according to the plan adopted by the congregation, should provide for three things:
  - a. The financing of the local congregation;
  - b. An equitable contribution to the work of the State District;
  - c. A just support of the general interests of the church as administered through its General Boards.
- III. It is advisable that the church finances be raised on the principle of voluntary, free-will offerings. That all may have a part in this the congregation should make an every-member canvass once a year.
- IV. It is recommended that each congregation receive at least one offering at a regular preaching service each week. The envelope system has been found useful for this.

### Financial Duties of Members

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him" (1 Cor. 16: 2).

"Every man, according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9: 7).

As a guide to giving and as a standard of Christian liberality it is recommended that at least a tenth of the yearly income be devoted to the work of the Lord; this to be equitably apportioned among the various interests of the church and contributed in regular offerings throughout the year.

#### I. Resident Members.

1. All members resident in a congregation should contribute regularly to the church in keeping with their ability to give.
2. Parents should teach their children and make them able to contribute and thus cultivate the habit of church loyalty and support.
3. No member of the church should feel too poor to help the church financially. The poor widow's two mites, given in full consecration, were more in the sight of the Master than many large gifts.

#### II. Non-resident Members.

1. Temporarily non-resident members should support the church at which they worship by making regular contributions thereto.
2. It is recommended that non-resident isolated members make regular contributions to the church with which they hold membership.

Committee: D. H. Keller, S. S. Blough, John S. Flory

Report adopted.

**Revision of Brethren Hymnal***Query, 1922*

We, the Bremen church, ask Annual Meeting, through the District Meeting of Northern Indiana, to appoint a committee of seven to revise the Brethren Hymnal; two to be selected with reference to the doctrinal teachings, two with reference to the literary excellence, and three with reference to the musical qualities of the hymns.

Answer: Passed.

Answer of Conference.—Request granted.

Committee: On Doctrinal Teaching, J. H. Moore, E. B. Hoff; on Literary Excellence, J. S. Flory, Cora Wise; on Musical Qualities, Edyth Hillery Hay, E. M. Studebaker, F. G. Muir.

In 1923 Conference recommended that the General Music Committee and the Committee on Revision co-operate in the work. It also appointed T. T. Myers in the place of J. H. Moore, resigned.

*Report of Committee, 1924*

We have completed the work of assembling and classifying hymns for the new book, and the Brethren Publishing House is negotiating for the use of copyrighted material. When this is finished your committee will be ready to submit complete manuscript at an early date.

John S. Flory, chairman; Cora Stahly, secretary; Ellis M. Studebaker, Cora V. Wise, E. B. Hoff, T. T. Myers, Wm. Beery, J. B. Miller. Absent members: Edyth Hillery Hay, F. G. Muir.

Answer.—By vote the report was accepted and the committee continued.

*Report of Committee, 1925*

We, your committee appointed to revise the Brethren Hymnal, do hereby report that we have completed the work committed to us and have turned it over to the Brethren Publishing House for publication. At this writing, April 18, 1925, less than thirty of the music plates are still to be made and all the other matter is in type. There seems to be no reasonable doubt that the Hymnal will be ready for use at the General Conference in June.

John S. Flory, Chairman; Cora Miller Stahly, Secretary

Report adopted.

**Bethany Bible School (Bethany Biblical Seminary)**

(Feeling that the time was ripe for a transfer of ownership, in 1922 the directors of Bethany Bible School took steps to bring the matter before Conference. The following includes the essential steps through which this transfer was made. The full minutes include lengthy reports with statements of the findings.)



*Request for Transfer, 1922*

Since the directors of the Bethany Bible School, by the act of accepting office in the said institution, "pledge themselves to hold the said institution and all the appurtenances thereof, in trust for the Church of the Brethren, until such a time as the General Conference of said church shall take the necessary steps for the full ownership and control of the said institution"; and

Since the directors of the Bethany Bible School, at their semiannual meeting, Feb. 20, 1922, petitioned the General Educational Board to ask the General Conference to appoint a committee with this end in view; Therefore,

We, the General Educational Board, recommend that the General Conference, assembled at Winona Lake, 1922, appoint a committee to make a careful investigation of this matter, and report to General Conference of 1923, a plan by which the said Bethany Bible School may be transferred to the Church of the Brethren.

Answer of Conference.—Request granted.

Committee: W. S. Long, Chairman; H. K. Ober, John H. Hoover, I. M. Reiff, J. S. Aldrich.

*Recommendation, 1924*

Since the investigation by our committee reveals the facts that the property of the Bethany Bible School is clearly held in trust for the Church of the Brethren, and its interests are fully safeguarded under the present plan, and realizing the wisdom of moving deliberately, in view of the unsettled educational policy of the church, we recommend that this entire matter be fully discussed, and if deemed wise, be spread on the minutes for one year.

Committee: W. S. Long, H. K. Ober, John H. Hoover, I. M. Reiff, J. S. Aldrich.

Answer of Conference.—Report was accepted and committee dismissed.

Voted that this matter be placed into the hands of the Commission on Education.

(In 1925 the Educational Commission made a report. Part II contained the following relative to the transfer of Bethany.)

*Report of Educational Commission, 1925*

Your Commission, to whom was committed the question of the transfer of Bethany Bible School, has carefully considered the need for theological training in our church, and we believe that our present interests can best be served by transferring the ownership of the said Bethany Bible School to the general Brotherhood and making its control and policies fully representative of the church.

### Plan of Transfer

1. It is suggested that from the date on which Annual Conference takes favorable action on the transfer of Bethany Bible School the present method of providing directors or trustees shall continue until the transfer is fully consummated.

2. The laws of the State of Illinois require that in corporations not for pecuniary profit, trustees or directors be elected from a constituted membership, therefore it will be necessary for Annual Conference to provide a membership or electorate from which a Board of Directors must be selected. The qualifications for membership in the electorate demand that they be loyal members of the Church of the Brethren, possessing additional qualities fitting them for the management of the institution. Such qualifications to be prescribed by the by-laws of the corporation.

3. In order that the various sections of the Brotherhood might be represented in the management and that the various Brethren colleges might be organically related thereto, it is recommended that the above corporation shall consist of thirteen or more individuals, who shall be elected for a term of three years each. The nominating body shall be divided into twelve distinct groups as follows:

- (a) Group one shall consist of the Standing Committee of the Church of the Brethren.
- (b) Groups two to nine shall consist of the respective trustee bodies of the colleges of the Church of the Brethren.
- (c) Group ten shall consist of the regular professors on the faculty of Bethany Bible School.
- (d) Group eleven shall consist of the Alumni of Bethany Bible School.
- (e) Group twelve shall consist of the trustees of Bethany Bible School.

Each of the above groups shall select one elector (trustee) to be approved by Standing Committee and Annual Conference.

The President of Bethany Bible School shall be a member of the corporation and a trustee of the Seminary *ex officio*.

The following shall be the order of selection of electors (trustees) by the various groups:

(1) Standing Committee; (2) Blue Ridge College; (3) Bridgewater-Daleville College; (4) Elizabethtown College; (5) Juniata College; (6) La Verne College; (7) Manchester College; (8) McPherson College; (9) Mt. Morris College; (10) Regular professors on the faculty of Bethany Bible School; (11) The Alumni of Bethany Bible School; (12) The Trustees of Bethany Bible School.

The scope of the work of this institution shall be that of a standard seminary and training school. The details of the curriculum, the correlation of this institution with other educational institutions of the Broth-

erhood, and its general policies shall be worked out by its Board of Directors in consultation with the General Educational Board.

Until an adequate endowment can be secured for the maintenance of the Seminary it is recommended that it be financed by voluntary contributions from individuals and churches.

Educational Commission: J. W. Lear, Otho Winger, D. W. Kurtz, J. A. Dove, J. J. Oller, Chas. D. Bonsack, P. H. Bowman, J. S. Noffsinger, Sec.

Answer.—By motion the second part of the report was adopted.

### **Commission on Educational Problems**

#### *Request, 1923*

We, the General Educational Board of the Church of the Brethren, petition Annual Conference to appoint a Commission of Seven to make a comprehensive study of our educational problems with a view of working out a policy that will adequately provide for our educational needs.

(It is understood that, during this investigation, the present policies of our schools be undisturbed.)

D. W. Kurtz, Chairman; J. W. Lear, Secretary pro tem.

Voted that this request be granted.

The following brethren were named to constitute this commission: J. W. Lear, J. J. Oller, Otho Winger, J. A. Dove, C. D. Bonsack, D. W. Kurtz, Paul H. Bowman.

In 1924 the commission reported progress and was continued.

(In 1925 the Commission presented the results of its study and made the following recommendations. Conference answers are appended.)

#### *Recommendation of Commission, 1925*

Your Commission has no specific recommendations to make excepting the following on which we are unanimously agreed:

1. That our present educational program is exceedingly heavy—that we have more senior colleges than the church needs and more than she can adequately support.

2. That the best interests of the church would be served if the maximum number of senior colleges should not exceed four, and that no area having a membership of less than 20,000 should attempt to maintain a standard senior institution.

3. That it would be unwise at this time for either the Commission to make public recommendations or for Annual Conference to legislate regarding definite institutions. We believe that relief can safely come only when both leaders and laity realize their present and future educational load, with the number of existing institutions, and demand through their respective college trustees that some adjustment be made.



4. That on account of the strategic importance of the more plastic period in the early adolescence of our boys and girls, those educational institutions yet maintaining preparatory departments be encouraged to continue the same, and more thought be given by the church to the maintenance and support of high grade academies and junior colleges.

Answer.—The Annual Conference of 1925 thanks the Educational Commission for its report relative to the college situation, and recommends to the officials of the colleges of the church a careful study of the complete investigation of the Commission.

Further, recognizing the unique service of our colleges to the church in the past and present, we recommend and urge,

(1) That the colleges increase their efforts to develop their resources,

(2) That the churches maintain and enlarge their support of the colleges, and

(3) That no reorganization be undertaken in the direction of re-trenchment that would hinder the progress of the church.

#### **Appointments Extended to Three Years**

a. The Elgin church petitions District Meeting of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin to ask Annual Conference to elect the Treasurer of Annual Meeting, the General Railway Transportation Agent and the Member of the Advisory Board of the American Bible Society, each for a term of three years, the new plan to take effect with the adoption of this paper.

Answer by District Meeting.—We decide that said officers shall be elected for a term of three years.

b. The 28th Street church of Middle Pennsylvania asks the Annual Conference of 1925, through the District Meeting, that the Treasurer of the Annual Meeting, the General Railway Transportation Agent, and the Member of the Advisory Board of the American Bible Society be elected for three years and that they shall not succeed themselves in office.

Answer of District Meeting of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin was passed by Conference.

#### **Fieldman for World Peace**

Bethany church asks Annual Conference through District Meeting of Eastern Maryland to put a brother of recognized ability in the field for the purpose of molding sentiment in favor of World Peace.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer.—Referred to General Welfare Board, with recommendation that they place a man in the field for that purpose.

#### **Defense Day Protest**

The Octavia church requests Annual Conference, through District

Conference, to voice a protest against what is known as National Defense Day.

Request granted and passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer.—Request granted. The subject matter to be embodied in the resolutions.

### **Help For Decaying Churches**

Since some congregations become so weakened through the shifting condition of the people, removed by death and otherwise, that quite often a large per cent of the small body of members, in easy reach of good, working congregations, become self-satisfied and indifferent to general church activities, thereby going into spiritual decay, and their houses of worship being closed, depreciate in value:

We, the Pleasant Hill church, through the District Meeting of Southern Ohio, pray the Annual Conference assembled at Winona Lake, to decide that the elders assembled at District Elders' Meeting shall consider carefully the spiritual welfare of these decaying churches, and if in their judgment it seems wise, they shall request District Meeting for a committee of three experienced elders to labor with said churches. If in the judgment of the committee it seems wise they shall issue letters of recommendation to the members assigning them to adjoining congregations, and direct the disposition of the property to the best advantage, considering all questions involved relating to it.

The expense of said committee incurred shall be met by the District Treasurer or as otherwise provided.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer.—Request granted.

### **Minutes Not in 1922 Revision Repealed**

We, the Ardenheim church, ask District Meeting of Middle Pennsylvania to ask Annual Meeting of 1925 to decide that all minutes previous to the publication of the Revised Minutes of 1922 which are not included in said minutes are considered repealed.

Passed and sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer.—Passed.

### **Beard Not Required of Elders**

Inasmuch as there is a difference of interpretation on the question, we, the Huntingdon church, ask Annual Meeting of 1925, through the District of Middle Pennsylvania, to decide that the wearing of the beard shall not be made a requirement for advancement to the eldership.

Passed and sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer.—Inasmuch as the New Testament is silent on the question of the wearing of the beard, we decide that the wearing of the beard shall not be made a requirement for ordination to the eldership.

### Location of the 1926 Conference

Conference answered three requests for the 1926 Conference by granting it to the Western Zone.

## 1926, Lincoln, Nebraska

### Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls

#### *Query, 1925*

We, the Second South Bend church, petition Annual Meeting of 1925 through the District Meeting of Northern Indiana to define her position relative to organizations known as the "Boy Scouts" and "Camp Fire Girls." Should we or should we not affiliate?

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer.—Referred to Sunday School Board to answer in 1926.

#### *Report of Board, 1926*

The General Sunday School Board has considered the advisability of adopting the Boy Scout and Camp Fire Girls programs for the Church of the Brethren. It recognizes that these organizations are attempting to meet certain needs of Intermediates which the church has not yet met. But the Board considers it unwise to adopt either program because they are not church-centered organizations. And because in addition the Boy Scout program, contrary to the stated purpose of the organization, fosters attitudes and actions which are militaristic.

The Board is preparing plans to promote a program which it believes will embody the best principles used by existing organizations in their programs for Intermediate boys and girls, which will be church-centered, and which will meet the particular needs of the boys and girls of the Church of the Brethren.

Ezra Flory, Secretary.

Report adopted.

### The Prayer Veil

#### *Query, 1925*

Whereas, the long-time-honored practice of sisters wearing the prayer veil is being greatly neglected over the general Brotherhood, and

Whereas, many brethren and sisters no longer believe in Paul's teaching along this line, as has been understood and practiced by the church in the past centuries,

Therefore, we, the members of the Quinter church, hereby, through District Meeting of Northwestern Kansas, petition Annual Meeting of

1925 to give a plain interpretation of the doctrine of the prayer veil, as taught in the eleventh chapter of First Corinthians.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer.—Committed to a committee of three to study and report next year.

Committee: Bertha Neher, R. W. Schlosser, E. B. Hoff.

*Report of Committee, 1926*

We, your committee appointed by the Annual Conference of 1925, to bring an interpretation of the doctrine of the Prayer Veil, as taught in 1 Cor. 11:3-16, submit the following report:

This text in general with the book of First Corinthians is a corrective of a disorder in the church at Corinth. In order to meet this condition Paul lays down a divine order of headship as a basis of his argument—God as the Head of Christ, Christ the Head of man, and man the head of woman (v. 3). Both men and women are instructed on this matter; therefore he says, "Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoreth his head [Christ]" (v. 4). And on the other hand, "Every woman praying or prophesying with her head uncovered dishonoreth her head [man]" (v. 5a).

As reasons for this practice Paul first of all appeals to creational relationships. "For a man indeed ought not to have his head covered forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God" (v. 7a; cf. Gen. 1:27). But on the other hand, the woman ought to have her head covered for "the woman is the glory of the man" (v. 7b; cf. Gen. 2:20-22).

He further states that a woman who complies with these requirements brings herself into right relationship for angel ministry (v. 10; cf. Heb. 1:14; Psa. 34:7; and 1 Cor. 4:9).

He finally states that naturally a man's short hair and a woman's long hair suggest the appropriateness of man's praying with an uncovered head and a woman's worshiping with an artificial covering on her head (vs. 13-15). Paul does not specify what the nature of this artificial covering should be, but we would naturally conclude from the oriental practice of that day and from the spiritual import of the purpose that it should comport with the genuine modesty and sacredness of Christian womanhood.

The Corinthian church seems to have been lax in her duty in this respect, and to those who were disregarding this teaching and were contentious about it, Paul stated that what he taught was the universal practice among the churches of God (v. 16).

We therefore conclude that Paul's arguments on this subject, instead of being local in their application, are general and apply to the churches throughout all Christendom.



Committee: E. B. Hoff, Chairman; Bertha M. Neher, R. W. Schlosser, Sec.

Report accepted.

### **Welfare Board and Relief**

The Joint Boards of Middle Indiana through the District Meeting petition Annual Conference to authorize the General Welfare Board to make provision to move out in relief work, whenever and wherever the need arises. Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer.—We authorize the Welfare Board to provide for relief work when the need arises.

### **"Christian," Not "Religious," Education**

The First Church of the Brethren, Ashland, Ohio, asks Annual Meetings of 1926 through District Meeting of Northeastern Ohio to state whether the religious educational activities of our Brotherhood shall operate under the head of "Christian Education" or "Religious Education" and thus settle much confusion and dissatisfaction.

Answer of District Meeting.—We express ourselves as favorable to the term "Christian Education" and pass the paper to Annual Meeting.

Answer of District Meeting adopted.

### **Reaffirmation of Fundamentals**

Whereas, the Church of the Brethren has been, and now is, passing through a remarkable period of transition;

And whereas, a part of this change is regarded by many as being a departure from the faith (Jude 3), a violation of Scripture and Annual Meeting decisions, as will be seen from the following, to wit:

(1) Missionaries having been sent to foreign fields, holding views on the simple life in dress who would be deprived from holding fellowship in the congregations which are paying for their support.

(2) Elders and pastors receiving into fellowship those who are members of secret societies and oathbound organizations.

(3) Teachings of Scripture and rulings of Conference on the dress question ignored. Sisters bobbing their hair, wearing jewelry for adornment by members and wearing of apparel in quality and style that border on indecency and shamelessness.

(4) A general neglect and discarding of daily prayer and wearing of the prayer veil.

(5) Kneeling in prayer in public worship largely abandoned.

(6) Salutation of the holy kiss as taught by the Gospels and adopted by Annual Conference is gradually being dispensed with.

Because of the foregoing facts and conditions and the craze for worldly amusement, many times irreligious and Christless, serious appre-

hensions have obtained, causing many honest souls to place a question mark in all seriousness on the propriety of supporting church work and missionary activities.

Therefore, the Elizabethtown church asks Annual Meeting, through District Meeting of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, to make a strong effort to regain unanimity of faith and practice in the church, that confidence and quiet may be restored.

(A similar query was presented from the Southern District of Pennsylvania.)

Answer.—Realizing that in many ways the members of our beloved church are prone to drift into worldly thought and conduct, and sincerely desiring to do all possible to keep our church true to the teachings of our Lord and his Word, therefore, the Annual Meeting of 1926 reaffirms some of her fundamental teachings and urges renewed faithfulness to them.

1. That all our ministers and missionaries be true to the declaration of principles and purpose as required of all delegates to Annual Meeting.

2. That we continue our opposition to our members belonging to secret societies and oath-bound organizations and insist that pastors and elders do not receive into or hold in church membership those who are members of such organizations.

3. That elders and pastors be faithful in teaching the simple life; that our members refrain from wearing immodest dress and jewelry and from worldly amusements. We decide that the worldly custom of women bobbing their hair is contrary to Scripture and Christian modesty, and urge all sisters to adorn themselves as women professing godliness.

4. That all members make a united effort to have the family altar erected in every home; that worship in our churches be made as spiritual as possible; and that the Lord's prayer and the kneeling posture in prayer be not neglected.

5. That we renew our vows of love for the Church of the Brethren and for one another and urge that the Christian salutation of the holy kiss, that great symbol of Christian love, be properly observed.

#### **Location of the 1927 Conference**

Conference for 1927 was granted to the Eastern Zone.

## 1927, Hershey, Pennsylvania

### Ministerial Problems

#### *Queries, 1924*

(10) Realizing the great need of pastoral care of all the churches, and because of the present disturbance that is often caused among churches in the change of pastors, the matter often being on a commercial basis; we, the Bremen church, ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting of Northern Indiana, to appoint a committee of five to take the whole pastoral question under advisement, and formulate a plan for the selection and support of pastors, looking toward some central authority in each State District, and making the pastors responsible to the District, rather than the church they serve.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

(11) We, the local Ministerial Board of Eastern Maryland, do hereby ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to formulate some workable plan by which the various District boards may co-operate with churches selecting pastors in regard to support and qualifications.

Passed to Annual Conference.

(12) We, the West Nimishillen church, petition Annual Conference, through District Meeting, to change its decision of 1921 with regard to the Local Ministerial Board, to read as follows:

"Each congregation may, with the consent of the majority, elect a Local Ministerial Committee of three loyal, spiritual brethren, whose duties shall be:

"1. To make a careful annual investigation of the needs of the congregation, under the direction of the elder in charge, and report such needs as the congregation can not supply to the District Ministerial Board, who shall aid in supplying such needs in co-operation with said congregation.

"2. To arrange the forces within the congregation for filling of all appointments."

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer.—Queries 10, 11 and 12 united and referred to General Ministerial Board to report next year.

#### *Report of General Ministerial Board as Special Conference Committee, 1925*

The General Ministerial Board working as a Committee for Conference, having been entrusted with the consideration of queries 10, 11 and 12 of Conference minutes of 1924, submits herewith its report:

A painstaking investigation plainly shows that our ministerial question is an intricate one. It can not be easily solved nor in a short period of time. Conference decisions alone can not give relief, but by united and prayerful effort we can more nearly accomplish the work. Some parts of the Brotherhood have made splendid progress, but, as a whole, we are far from an all-round pulpit service for the churches and an adequate pastoral care for the membership.

The Board as your committee has given much time in the consideration of the work. It is our conviction that a plan which provides for a closer supervision must be the final solution. We are not ready to give a complete report at this Conference, but while this is in the course of preparation, make the following recommendations for adoption now:

1. The Conference hereby emphasizes the authority vested in the several Boards in the present plan.

2. They are hereby authorized and directed to carry out, wherever the need exists, the intents of the plan.

3. We urge a wider education in and respect for the provisions of the Conference as pertains to the care of the churches.

4. The various Boards and Committees are urged to make their organizations effective in a kind and loving spirit, and give supervision as may seem proper and necessary.

Report adopted.

### **The Pastoral Problem**

Several queries on this subject which were brought to the Conference of 1924 were referred to the General Ministerial Board. A tentative report was offered to the Conference of 1925 and adopted. Last year the Board presented the following more complete report:

#### *Report of Board, 1926*

We, your Committee, entrusted with queries numbers 10, 11 and 12, by General Conference of 1924, make the following report:

#### **Our Findings**

The plan adopted by General Conference in 1922 for the advancement and better distribution of our ministers is working reasonably well so far as it is wisely and faithfully administered.

The church at large is making better progress in the few years during which the plan has been in operation.

Our ministers as a whole are encouraged to deeper consecration and more thorough preparation for their work.

However, since the need of more efficiently supervised pastoral care of the churches is apparent and a rightful distribution of our ministry is urgent, we submit the following:



## The General Ministerial Board

(Election provided for by minutes of 1921)

The General Ministerial Board shall direct its energies to the execution of the plan hereby set forth and as conditions may demand, perfect its provisions through recommendations to General Conference. Their duties are:

1. To maintain an office in charge of its secretary, in which up-to-date files covering our entire ministry and the churches are kept.
2. To conduct surveys annually in order to keep the file adequate to the needs of the work of the Brotherhood.
3. To keep a register of our ministers and their transference from one region to that of another in order to maintain a uniform ministerial supply in all parts of the church.
4. To furnish information for publication relative to our ministry and the churches.
5. To use every available means through conferences, institutes and conventions in order to maintain unity in our ministry, elevate educational standards, develop spiritual life and consecration to service.
6. To work out and maintain a standard for our ministers as to preparation and experience in pastoral work and for our churches in number of members and in financial ability.

The United States and Canada are to be divided into five regions to facilitate the work of the Board. Each region is to be supervised by a member of the Board. His duties are:

1. To conduct the annual survey of all the congregations in his region and keep an up-to-date file of the ministers and churches.
2. To visit State Districts in order to inspire the District Ministerial Boards to carry out their instructions, secure the co-operation of the ministers and the local congregations and adjust difficulties where the cause is suffering.
3. To assist Districts and churches, wherever needed, in formulating programs and effecting organizations and to provide regional conferences as may be deemed advisable, in harmony with the provisions set forth for the Board at large.
4. To list the ministers and churches of his region under the standards set by the General Board for our ministers and churches.
5. To represent the General Board in all other duties in his region to make the plan effective.

## District Ministerial Boards

(Election provided for by minutes of 1917)

Each District Ministerial Board is definitely responsible:

1. To make a careful study of the congregations and the ministers of

the District and make such reports to the General Ministerial Board as may be needed.

2. To distribute the ministers within the territory to the best advantage of the churches and the ministry.

3. To have in charge the ordination of ministers to the eldership approved by the elders of the District, and the installation of ministers from the licentiates in accord with the minutes of General Conference.

4. To examine and pass upon, by the approval of the congregation, candidates for licensing to preach as to educational qualifications, faith and doctrine and conduct the procedure of licensing in harmony with the Minutes of Annual Conference.

5. To inspire suitable young persons to qualify themselves for the work of the ministry and, when necessary, call the attention of the local church to the necessity of licensing them to preach.

6. To assist churches in the adjustment of difficulties arising from or affecting the ministry.

7. To make a survey of the District at the request of the General Ministerial Board, preserve a complete file for the work of the District and make such reports as may be necessary for the work in general.

8. To perform all other duties necessary to make the work of the General Board effective.

#### Local Ministerial Committees

(Election provided for by minutes of 1921)

It is the duty of the Local Ministerial Committee of each congregation of the District:

1. To make a survey of the church and make reports as requested by the District Ministerial Boards.

2. To confer with the District Ministerial Board in securing a pastor whenever one is desired for the local congregation.

3. To co-operate with the elder in charge of a church not employing a pastor to organize the forces of the congregation for pastoral care and supplying the pulpit.

#### The Ministry

Every minister of the church should qualify himself for acceptable pulpit service and to do pastoral work efficiently and place himself at the call of his District Ministerial Board to serve the church. When a pastor or a church desires to sever pastoral relations, the District Ministerial Board is to be notified who shall supervise the maintaining or severing of such relations.

The pastoral year is to begin September 1, but assignments should be made not later than June 1, if possible. A minister desiring a pastorate in another State District shall receive the consent of his District Minis-

terial Board and the member of the General Ministerial Board in charge of the region to which he desires to transfer.

All ministers who do not qualify themselves for service under the plan set forth and who live exemplary lives shall be encouraged by the Ministerial Board and assisted to a greater service for the Master as opportunity affords.

#### Pensions

Let a sufficient fund be provided by those in charge of all such funds for pensioning disabled, superannuated ministers and dependent widows and orphans of ministers.

All applications from said fund for ministers and their dependents shall bear the endorsement of the District Ministerial Board of the District in which such beneficiaries reside and the approval of the General Ministerial Board.

All former rulings in conflict with present decisions are hereby repealed.

Committee: D. H. Zigler, S. J. Miller, J. A. Robinson, M. J. Brougher, David Metzler.

Answer of 1926 Conference: The report with recommendations spread on the minutes one year for study.

Answer: The report adopted.

#### Church Hospital

##### *Query, 1921*

We, the Washington City church, petition the District Meeting of Eastern Maryland to ask Annual Conference to appoint a committee of five members, to study the matter of the establishment of a hospital, owned and controlled by the church, and to report to next Conference.

Answer: Request granted.

Committee: Dr. Ernest Sappington, Dr. G. H. Van Dyke, A. P. Snader, Frank H. Sargent, D. H. Zigler.

##### *Recommendation of Committee, 1922*

1. That a five-year campaign of education, relative to the values of a church hospital and its costs, be undertaken by a committee, at least two of which shall be physicians.

2. That this committee open an account to receive money for a hospital, at such time as it deems to be opportune.

3. That in the meantime this committee shall act in an advisory capacity to our members who desire training as nurses or physicians.

4. That this committee recommend to Conference the establishment of the institution whenever it deems advisable.

5. That we commend the effort made in the opening of the Bethany Sanatorium and Hospital and recommend its encouragement and development.

Committee appointed: Homer F. Sanger, D. H. Zigler, Dr. E. F. Sappington, A. P. Snader, Dr. C. P. Shafer.

#### *Recommendation of Committee, 1924*

1. We recommend that our people observe May 12 each year, which has already been established as National Hospital Day. This is the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. On this day the hospitals over the land are open to visitors. Our folks, if possible, should visit near-by institutions on this day for there will be some one on duty all day to answer questions relating to hospital work and management.

2. That the committee furnish an outline topic which will be printed on the Christian Workers' program. This outline topic will enable the young people to have a hospital program several times during the year.

3. That the committee provide the presidents of our schools with reliable information for the use of any of their students who may desire training as physicians or nurses, especially as related to scholarships.

4. It is the opinion of the committee that the great need for the present is a program of education which may in time lead to the establishing of church-controlled hospitals where our young people can be taught and where their faith in the doctrines and teachings of the Church of the Brethren will grow and develop, that they may be saved to our church and her great mission.

Ernest F. Sappington, M. D., Secretary.

Answer.—Report accepted and the committee continued.

#### *Report of Committee, 1925*

The appeal of the nursing and medical professions to our young men and women is gradually growing stronger, as evidenced by the increasing numbers who are entering the hospitals and medical colleges.

We find in Chicago alone more than forty members in training in medical colleges and hospitals. Every one of these is in an institution of good standards and high ideals.

#### *Campaign of Education*

It has been arranged for the young people's department of the entire Brotherhood to spend one Sunday studying the call of the nursing and medical professions, an article appearing in *Our Young People*, and informational literature being made available. A booklet is being prepared which will give full and reliable information for vocational guidance and will contain a list of approved institutions.

#### *The Advisory Service*

To the present date (April 22), the committee has given assistance



and information in 93 instances, mostly in directing students to satisfactory medical schools and hospitals, helping them to secure desirable internships and other positions, and giving reliable information about medical institutions and related matters. The policy of guiding young people into hospitals and schools of both recognized standing and high moral character is being carried out as closely as possible. Plenty of splendid institutions are to be found in places where we have active churches.

#### Bethany Hospital

The things that stand out about the operation of the hospital, particularly the last year, have been: (a) increased patronage of local physicians; (b) the highly satisfactory service in the care of the sick, which, in fact, has always been characteristic; (c) increased earnings approaching and nearly equaling the cost of operation.

The hospital's imperative need is for a building sufficient in size, and equipment sufficient in both quantity and quality to give: (1) the hospital service to the community, and (2) to afford a standard nurse training course.

To accomplish these ends will necessitate a new building, as any addition to the present structure would have the same disadvantage of fire hazard, lack of space, scarcity of air and sunshine; and might delay the day of better things. The church must now look for accredited nurse training courses entirely to hospitals owned and controlled by outside agencies. Bethany Hospital could be developed to do this work acceptably for a certain number. But such development can come only after the new building has been provided.

Homer F. Sanger, Chairman; Ernest F. Sappington, M. D., Secretary.

Report adopted and committee continued. Frank N. Sargent was chosen to fill the vacancy caused by the death of A. P. Snader.

#### *Report of Committee, 1926*

Realizing the importance of foresight and an intelligent policy for the future, to insure for our Brotherhood the greatest benefit from existing hospital facilities, and a wise and conservative attitude toward such facilities under Brethren control, the Committee expresses its mind as follows:

##### A. Conditions for Approving Existing Hospitals for Nurse Training

1. The hospital must be conveniently located to a Church of the Brethren, with opportunities to attend church services. There must be a decided religious atmosphere.

2. The hospital must provide an acceptable course of training with proper time allowance for study and recreation.

3. Only hospitals whose diplomas are recognized generally by the state boards of nurse registration will be recommended.

B. Conditions for Approving Hospitals Operated under the Auspices of the Church of the Brethren

1. There shall be a need or opening for a hospital of the type or kind proposed at the place suggested, either as a work of mercy, or as a training school for our members, or both.
2. The plans for its development, if endorsed, must not be such as to work a financial hardship on the Brotherhood, nor deflect funds for obligations already assumed.
3. Its resources, in hand or in prospect, must be such as to insure sufficient plant, equipment and personnel for efficient operation.
4. If the hospital proposes to train nurses, it shall provide for a course of training that shall meet the requirements of at least the majority of the state boards of nurse registration.
5. The hospital shall accept and serve, in the spirit of Jesus Christ, all kinds and classes of sick and injured; but in training nurses the first object shall be to accommodate student nurses who come from the homes of members of the Church of the Brethren.
6. The entire personnel shall possess such qualifications as are required to function efficiently in the interest of its patients.
7. The atmosphere shall be spiritual and the religious life and growth well provided for.

C. Bethany Hospital

At the request of Bethany Hospital, we have made a survey of the work, and a study of the plans for its future development. These plans meet the above conditions and we therefore approve them. The funds needed for necessary building, equipment and maintenance to provide an adequate nurse training school will be provided by individuals more interested in hospitals than any other forms of Christian charity. For this reason there will be no added financial burden imposed on the Brotherhood, and there will be no deflection of funds from obligations already assumed, such as educational and missionary programs.

The trinity of church, school and hospital will complete the church's educational program, and the training of her youth can be done under her own supervision.

Homer F. Sanger, Chairman; Ernest F. Sappington, M. D., Secretary; L. D. Ikenberry; Frank N. Sargent; Charles P. Shaffer, M. D.

Report adopted.

*Report of Committee, 1927*

The report of the committee on Church Hospital, as adopted in 1922, contained the following recommendations:

- (1) That a five-year campaign of education, relative to the values of a church hospital and its costs, be undertaken by a committee, at least two of which shall be physicians.

(2) That this committee open an account to receive money for a hospital, at such time as it deems to be opportune.

(3) That in the meantime this committee shall act in an advisory capacity to those of our members who desire training as nurses or physicians.

(4) That this committee recommend to Conference the establishment of the institution whenever it deems advisable.

(5) That we commend the effort made in the opening of the Bethany Sanatorium and Hospital and recommend its encouragement and development.

Committee appointed: Homer F. Sanger, D. H. Zigler, Dr. E. F. Sapington, A. P. Snader, Dr. C. P. Shaffer.

In 1923 L. D. Ikenberry was appointed in the place of D. H. Zigler, resigned.

In 1925 Frank N. Sargent was appointed in the place of A. P. Snader, deceased.

Regarding the foregoing recommendations:

The first has been carried out, relative to the values of a church hospital, particularly to our people. In the matter of costs, we find that a modern fireproof hospital costs in the neighborhood of \$3,500 per bed and upward, depending on location and type of building. Furnishing costs approximately \$250 per room and equipment about the same.

The second and fourth, both of which were left to the discretion of the committee, were not acted upon, because neither the opening of an account to receive money nor the building of an additional hospital has seemed to be advisable, especially since a suitable institution has been undertaken voluntarily by the Bethany Hospital Association. That association is composed of forty-one members of the Church of the Brethren, including twenty-nine charter members and twelve who have since contributed at least \$1,000 each. The association elects the trustees who hold the property in trust for the Church of the Brethren.

The Committee has carried out the third provision (a) by giving reliable guidance to members desiring training as nurses or physicians, (b) by inspiring those who enter these professions to do so from motives of service to God and humanity, (c) by assisting graduate nurses and physicians in establishing themselves in positions of service and professional advancement. Direct assistance has been given in connection with 148 requests.

While the fifth recommendation has not been construed as applying to the Committee alone, nevertheless, the Committee has kept in close touch with the development of Bethany Hospital, counseling with the management when requested to do so and giving encouragement.



### Important Facts Obtained by Survey

From the mass of information obtained through surveys and other reliable sources including reports from over 400 pastors and elders, the Committee is able to set down the following facts:

1. Upwards of one thousand members of the Church are interested in medical and nursing professions, including graduates, students and those who intend to take up either profession.

2. As a rule, our members have made good in these callings, showing devotion to duty, having a strong sense of the value of human life, and possessing the human qualities so essential in caring for sick and disabled persons.

3. Because the 2,200 hospital nurse training schools in the United States are made up of all kinds ranging from excellent down to bad, candidates who are unfamiliar, as most of our people are, with the hospital field, need intelligent guidance to give them the right start on their career.

4. The Committee's files show that our members have graduated as nurses from 106 different hospitals; and as doctors from more than 21 different medical colleges.

5. Present indications are that within three years we shall have at least 100 members entering nurse training each year.

In order that these members may be held for the Church and at the same time to forestall undue multiplication of institutions the Committee drew up a set of principles which were adopted at the Annual Meeting at Lincoln, Nebr., in 1926, as follows:

#### "A. Conditions for Approving Existing Hospitals for Nurse Training

"1. The hospital must be conveniently located to a Church of the Brethren, with opportunities to attend church service. There must be a decided religious atmosphere.

"2. The hospital must provide an acceptable course of training with proper time allowance for study and recreation.

"3. Only hospitals whose diplomas are recognized generally by the state boards of nurse registration will be recommended.

#### "B. Conditions for Approving Hospitals Operated Under the Auspices of the Church of the Brethren

"1. There shall be a need or opening for a hospital of the type or kind proposed at the place suggested, either as a work of mercy, or as a training school for our members, or both.

"2. The plans for its development, if endorsed, must not be such as to work a financial hardship on the Brotherhood, nor deflect funds from obligations already assumed.

"3. Its resources, in hand or in prospect, must be such as to insure sufficient plant, equipment and personnel for efficient operation.



"4. If the hospital proposes to train nurses, it shall provide for a course of training that shall meet the requirements of at least the majority of the state boards of nurse registration.

"5. The hospital shall accept and serve, in the spirit of Jesus Christ, all kinds and classes of sick and injured; but in training nurses the first object shall be to accommodate student nurses who come from the homes of members of the Church of the Brethren.

"6. The entire personnel shall possess such qualifications as are required to function efficiently in the interest of its patients.

"7. The atmosphere shall be spiritual and the religious life and growth well provided for.

#### "C. Bethany Hospital

"At the request of Bethany Hospital, we have made a careful survey of the work, and a study of the plans for its future development. These plans meet the above conditions and we therefore approve them. The funds needed for necessary building, equipment and maintenance to provide an adequate nurse training school will be provided by individuals more interested in hospitals than any other forms of Christian charity. For this reason there will be no added financial burden imposed on the Brotherhood, and there will be no deflection of funds from obligations already assumed, such as educational and missionary programs.

"The trinity of church, school and hospital will complete the church's educational program, and the training of her youth can be done under her own supervision."

#### Recommendations

With the foregoing principles established; with the nucleus of a good modern hospital under Brethren auspices already undertaken, and an increasing number of our young people taking up the nursing and medical work, our church is finding a new field of service.

Therefore, in order that the church may be guided intelligently, and in order to avoid friction and unnecessary multiplication of institutions, the Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That Conference appoint a permanent committee of three members, each member to serve five years, except that those first appointed will serve one, three, and five years respectively.

2. The duties of this committee shall be: (a) To see that the conditions adopted by Conference in 1926 are carried out. (b) To act in an advisory capacity in supplying information and guidance to members regarding nursing and medical work, and to institutions regarding their problems. (c) To report to Conference each year, on the activities of the committee and on such matters as are deemed of interest to the Brotherhood.

Committee: Homer F. Sanger, Chairman; E. F. Sappington, M. D., Sec-

retary; L. D. Ikenberry; Frank N. Sargent; C. P. Shaffer, M. D.  
Answer.—Report adopted.

### **Constitution for the General Education Board**

#### *Query, 1926*

Inasmuch as the constitution of the General Educational Board does not adequately meet our present educational needs, we, the General Educational Board, request this Conference to appoint a committee of three to revise the constitution and report to next Conference.

D. W. Kurtz, President; J. S. Noffsinger, Secretary.

Moved that we recommit this request to the General Educational Board with the request that it bring to the Conference a more adequate plan.

Motion passed.

#### *Report of Board, 1927*

We, your Committee, to whom was committed the revision of the constitution of the General Education Board, make the following report:

#### **Article I. Name**

The official name of this Board shall be the General Education Board of the Church of the Brethren.

#### **Article II. Membership**

The membership of this Board shall consist of three members nominated by Standing Committee and approved by the Annual Conference; in addition there shall be an ex-officio membership consisting of the heads of the recognized educational institutions under the control of the Church of the Brethren.

#### **Article III. Organization**

The members of this Board shall organize by electing a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary-treasurer.

#### **Article IV. Meetings**

The Board shall meet annually, or oftener, if circumstances require it.

#### **Article V. Duties**

The duties of the Board shall be as follows:

(1) To devise ways and means whereby our educational institutions may recruit and educate an adequate lay, ministerial and missionary leadership for the Church of the Brethren.

(2) To develop and nurture among the churches a higher Christian educational consciousness.

(3) To encourage closer co-operation and harmony of action among our institutions of learning.

(4) To assist all of our institutions of learning in promoting endowment and betterment campaigns so as to bring them up to the highest educational and spiritual efficiency.

(5) To inaugurate in each institution proper and comparable methods of accounting, and to encourage an independent audit of books so as to render a strict accounting of stewardship to the church.

(6) To co-operate with the various general boards of the church in promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ and in building the Kingdom of God.

(7) To keep in touch with the great educational movements of our times and to appropriate such benefits as they may offer.

(8) To incorporate so as to receive gifts and hold property for the purpose of promoting Christian education.

(9) To submit in writing a report of its activities to each Annual Conference.

(10) To recommend to Annual Conference the future founding and dissolution of all schools, and to formulate and foster a general educational policy and program for the entire Brotherhood.

#### Article VI. Remuneration

The members of the General Education Board shall receive only the actual expenses incurred in the work of the Board plus such per diem as is approved by Annual Conference for the members of all general boards. These expenses shall be paid from the treasury of the Board.

Signed: D. W. Kurtz, John S. Flory, J. W. Lear, J. S. Noffsinger.

Answer.—Report adopted with an amendment to Art. II, making the term of office three years.

#### Registration Bureau of Information and Exchange

*Query, 1926*

The Wiley congregation asks Annual Meeting through the Eastern District of Colorado to give careful consideration to the need of our Brotherhood for a Registration Bureau of Information and Exchange, located preferably at Elgin, and closely associated with the home mission work, to meet the following needs and purposes:

1. Registration of our young people in training for religious work, such registration to include their desired field of labor, qualifications, general ability, etc.

2. Co-operation with the General and District Ministerial and Mission Boards in supplying and locating pastors, and assisting in locating young people available for church work.

3. A bureau of pastoral exchange available to both ministers and churches.

Answer by District Meeting.—District Meeting unanimously grants

the request, and urges that Conference place this paper in the hands of a committee for one year to work out the details of a plan for conserving all available workers for the church and making them of greatest service to her.

Answer.—Request granted.

Committee: The Council of Promotion.

### *Report of Council, 1927*

The Council of Promotion considered the query submitted by the Annual Conference at Lincoln, Nebr., on the matter of providing a Registration Bureau of Information and Exchange and submits the following report:

There would be real advantages in a central Registration Bureau. It could secure and make available valuable statistics from churches and from individuals seeking to work through the church, either as religious workers or serving in vocations not definitely religious, but through which an individual might be located in communities where our churches are located.

There would be certain disadvantages in connection with such a Bureau, chief of which would be the danger of merely securing data as an end in itself. Another possible difficulty would be that such a Bureau would almost be held responsible for people who would be recommended to churches. This would involve a personal knowledge of such individuals which would seem almost impossible.

### *Agencies Now at Work in This Field*

General Mission Board has list of student volunteers.

Ministerial Board—locating pastors.

Music Committee—providing song leaders.

Hospital Committee—providing lists of accredited hospitals to prospective nurses.

General Sunday School Board—placing workers in religious education.

Council of Promotion—recommending people for various positions.

Colleges and seminaries.

General Education Board.

### *Scope of the Work*

Such a Bureau might include within its scope:

1. Placing of employed religious workers.
2. Part time and temporary religious workers.
3. Providing openings for those whose occupations are not definitely religious, and in this way conserve their interest in the church.

### *Conclusions*

It is the feeling of the Council of Promotion that the most adequate



working out of such a Bureau is dependent upon a possible reorganization of the Administrative Boards of our church. In view of such a possibility, no plan is herewith submitted.

The Council of Promotion.

Answer.—Report adopted.

### **The Church and Peace**

#### *Query, 1926*

As our church's doctrine of peace is conducive to strong Christian character, and to the best type of citizenship; and believing that this should be held before the rising generation of our church in a more definite manner,

We, the Harrisonburg church, ask Annual Conference through District Meeting of Northern Virginia to instruct our General Welfare Board to prepare:

(1) A statement of our church's opportunities to serve the cause of world peace.

(2) A section, in connection with the above statement, which will be for the purpose of enlisting those who wish to pledge themselves to foster all Christian movements for world peace, to give sacrificial devotion to our home and foreign missionary endeavors, and if war should come, to take no part in its support which in any way would violate New Testament teachings.

Passed to Annual Meeting,

Answer.—We request the Welfare Board to prepare a statement in harmony with this query and report to the next Annual Conference.

#### *Report of Board, 1927*

As our Church's doctrine of peace is conducive to strong Christian character, and to the best type of citizenship; and believing that this should be held before the rising generation of our church in a more definite manner,

1. We reaffirm the position of our forefathers that war is unholy, unchristian and unnecessary in the light of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, we urge our members to work faithfully against the growing spirit of militarism in times of peace to the end that our young men will be so grounded in faith and conscience that they would not engage in war.

2. We urge an active campaign of education for peace along the following suggestive lines:

(a) That each District in the Brotherhood organize a Welfare Board (preferably three members) and authorize the Board to put on a program of peace (and other welfare activities) by declamation and oratorical contests in local churches.

(b) That District Boards encourage local churches to put on study classes or discussions in Y. P. D. programs or topic discussion in Christian Workers' and midweek prayer meeting on peace and other related subjects.

(c) That District Boards provide for oratorical contests on peace and other welfare activities by offering tuition scholarship—in part or in whole—at the college in their church region.

(d) That the General Welfare Board enlist our college students to engage in local or intercollegiate contests and that graduate students be selected and encouraged to pursue research work on peace and other welfare subjects with a view of publishing their findings in tracts and pamphlets.

(e) That our church co-operate with other peace organizations in times of peace and especially in possible war emergencies, and further that the church solicit volunteer workers for short term service similar to work of the Friends (Quakers).

General Welfare Board,

Bertha Neher, Secretary-Treasurer.

Answer.—Report adopted.

### Evangelism for 1927

Because of the urgent need for enlivened spiritual life within our church and because of the lethargy of many people in our nation in recognizing the Lordship of Jesus, the Council of Promotion requests Annual Conference to set evangelism as the special aim for each congregation during the coming year.

We further recommend that the Council of Promotion, the District officials and boards, take the proper measures to develop a plan that will enlist each congregation in an effective evangelistic effort during the year.

Answer.—Recommendation accepted.

### Conference Budget 1928-29

The Council of Promotion submits to the Annual Conference of 1927 the following budget for consideration and approval:

General Mission Board .....	\$347,500.00
General Sunday School Board .....	21,000.00
General Education Board .....	5,000.00
General Ministerial Board .....	8,500.00
General Welfare Board .....	5,000.00
Music Committee .....	1,000.00
American Bible Society .....	1,000.00

Total .....\$389,000.00

Answer.—Budget approved.

### **Editorial Duties of the Conference Secretary**

The General Mission Board petitions Annual Conference of 1927 to make it the duty of the Secretary of Annual Conference to gather, prepare and edit the material for the Conference Booklet.

Answer.—Request granted.

### **Constitution of the General Sunday School Board**

Inasmuch as the constitution of the General Sunday School Board does not provide for all phases of its present and anticipated program, the following revised constitution is presented for the approval of the Annual Conference in 1927:

#### **Article I. Name**

The name of this organization shall be the General Sunday School Board of the Church of the Brethren.

#### **Article II. Membership**

This Board shall be composed of five members appointed by the Annual Conference. Any brother or sister who is experienced and successful in church school work and who is faithful to the Gospel shall be eligible to appointment.

#### **Article III. Term of Office**

The term of office shall be five years, except those first appointed, one of whom shall serve five years, one four years, one three years, one two years, and one one year.

#### **Article IV. Organization**

The Board shall organize annually and shall appoint the necessary secretaries, directors of departments, and editors of church school literature.

#### **Article V. Meetings**

The Board shall meet at least once each year for the prosecution of its task.

#### **Article VI. Duties**

Section 1. The Board shall make a careful research study of the needs and functions of the local church in its educational task.

Section 2. The Board shall provide courses for the study of God's Word and the propagation of its truth through the church school, and shall also provide suitable publications and promotional literature.

Section 3. The Board shall promote its program through regional, District, and local church school agencies.

Section 4. The Board shall have charge of all church school work and interests at the Annual Conference, by providing for such meetings and measures as may be necessary to promote the interests of the church school.



Section 5. The Board shall secure and keep on file in its office complete statistics of the church school.

Section 6. The Board shall secure funds for the furtherance of its work through Sunday-school offerings and such other sources as are in harmony with the usages of the church.

Section 7. The Board shall make an Annual Report to Conference.

Section 8. The Board shall co-operate with the schools and colleges of the church in training young people for active Christian service.

By the acceptance of this constitution all former decisions not in harmony with the same are hereby repealed.

Constitution adopted.

### **Bibles for New Converts**

Since the great need of the world today is to get back to the Bible and to God, and

Since the Bible is the best means the church has to instill and promote growth in Christian Life, and

Since each one who becomes a member of the church is susceptible to Bible teaching and its leadership at time of baptism, and

Since a number of our congregations now have the practice of giving a copy of the Bible to each applicant at baptism:

Therefore, we, the Kent church, in council assembled, petition Annual Conference through District Conference of Northeastern Ohio, to indorse and recommend to the congregations of our Brotherhood that a copy of the Bible be given to each applicant at baptism.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer.—We recommend the practice wherever needed.

### **World Peace Sunday-school Lesson**

#### *Query, 1924*

We, the Unity congregation, petition Annual Meeting of 1924, through District Meeting of Northern Virginia, to authorize the member of the International Sunday School Lesson Committee who represents the Church of the Brethren, to use his influence to secure a place in the International Lesson System for at least one Sunday-school lesson annually on the subject of World Peace.

Approved and sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer.—Referred to the General Sunday School Board.

#### *Query, 1927*

The General Sunday School Board of the Church of the Brethren petitions Annual Conference to present to the International Council of Religious Education our request as a denomination that the Uniform Lesson Series be planned to incorporate one Peace Lesson each quarter, in



order that all Christians shall be united in the study of this most important doctrine.

Answer.—Granted.

### **Tract Committee Discontinued**

We, the Waynesboro congregation, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting of Southern Pennsylvania, to discontinue the Tract Examining Committee, and put their work into the hands of the General Mission Board.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer.—Request granted.

### **Men's Work Recognized**

The Organization of Men's Work submit their committee for confirmation and request that their names appear in the minutes of the Conference.

Answer.—Request granted.

### **Location and Date of the 1928 Conference**

The Conference for 1928 was granted to the Coast Zone. Because the World's Sunday School Association is scheduled to meet in California, July 11-18, 1928, the Annual Conference will be held not earlier than the last week in June.

## **1928, La Verne, California**

### **Organization of Districts and Boards**

#### *Queries, 1924*

In view of the fact that some of our State Districts are exceedingly small in number of members, and others are very large, thus not giving a just basis for representation in General Conference, and in order that some territories may be helpful to other sections, we, the Spring Creek congregation, petition Annual Conference, through the District Meeting of Middle Indiana, to appoint a committee to study the question of re-districting parts of the Brotherhood and report to the Annual Conference of 1925.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Inasmuch as many of our Districts are small numerically, and weak financially, and their boards unable to support a full-time secretary to promote the various phases of their work—a thing that is essential to effective District work—and inasmuch as our Districts are not connected in any organic way with the general boards of our church:

We, the Bridgewater congregation, ask Annual Conference of 1924 through the Second District of Virginia, to appoint a committee; First, to study the question of combining some of our Districts so as to make possible more effective working units; and second, of providing for our Districts to be connected in some organic way with the work of our general boards.

Passed by District Conference of Second District of Virginia.

Answer.—These queries are referred to a committee of three.

Committee: M. R. Zigler, C. D. Bonsack, H. C. Early.

#### *Report of Committee, 1925*

I. After a careful study of the field and the work of the State Districts, we find some of them small in membership, which tends to discouragement and disintegration. We therefore recommend:

First. That since there are many advantages for co-operation and supervision in the larger Districts, we suggest that Districts consider combining where this advantage seems possible, and especially Districts with a membership under 750.

Second. That hereafter no State Districts be organized without a membership of at least 750.

Third. That a group of churches with a membership under 750, desiring to organize, shall first bring their request to the General Conference.

II. Since there seems not to be sufficient organic connection between the local church and the State District, as well as between the State Districts and the work of the General Boards of the church, we recommend that this matter be referred to the Council of Promotion for careful study and recommendations to the General Conference.

Committee: M. R. Zigler, C. D. Bonsack, H. C. Early.

Answer.—Report adopted.

#### *Report of Council, 1926*

The problem of relationship and administration of the local church, the State District and the work of the General Boards, having been referred to us by the action of Annual Conference, 1925, we, the Council of Promotion, having given prayerful thought to this whole matter, believe that the wide administration of the resources and possibilities of the church demands earnest consideration.

#### *Findings*

1. In the changes of the past few years, we believe that we have unconsciously weakened our church administration and oversight at the following points:
  - a. In changing to the single pastor plan in the ministry of our con-

gregations, we have more or less lost the help of District elders, which tends to make our congregations separate and independent.

- b. With the feeling for frequent changes in the representation on the Standing Committee, we have perhaps made it more difficult for the Committee to care adequately for the churches which they represent.
- c. That while the various Christian activities are well emphasized through the Boards of the church, yet, there remains a lack of coherent articulation throughout the General, District and local organizations to maintain the most helpful relationships necessary for a common understanding and a hearty support of the great spiritual purposes of our Brotherhood.
2. We also find that there are new groups, such as laymen, sisters and young people, who are becoming more and more interested in the development of the Kingdom, and who should be represented in our scheme of organization.

#### Recommendations

In view of the above we therefore tentatively recommend:

1. That all the work done by our General Boards, save the Mission Board, be placed in the hands of one large Board of administration and oversight.
2. That the Districts, as far as practicable, work out the same plan of organization.
3. That in order to articulate properly the General, the District and the local work of our church, the Districts of our Brotherhood shall be grouped into regions and a carefully selected elder have sympathetic supervision of the same.
4. That the above general plan be submitted not for final action, but for friendly consideration, and we request the Conference to grant more time to complete our task.

In the meantime, however,

- a. We invite our brethren to contribute through the Messenger or by letter constructive suggestions in order that we may find the best methods through which to release our consecrated powers in behalf of the kingdom of our God. And,
- b. We recommend that each of us in faith and conduct exemplify the life of the redeemed of God and each seek to contribute to the welfare of the whole cause our full measure of unselfish support.

J. A. Dove, Chairman; J. S. Noffsinger, Secretary.

Report adopted.

#### *Report of Council, 1927*

The Council regrets that no definite plan has been matured. Much time and thought has been given to the task. There is agreement that



for the sake of simplicity and a closer articulation from the congregations on up to the general organization there should be an efficient system set up, but as yet there has not been sufficient agreement as to what the details of that system should be to warrant the submitting of a report to Conference.

We therefore report progress and beg for more time to complete the work placed in our hands.

Council of Promotion.

Answer.—Report accepted and continued in the hands of the Council of Promotion for study.

### *Report of Council, 1928*

We, the Council of Promotion, who have for the past three years carefully studied the entire problem of relationship and administration of the local church, the State Districts and the work of the general Boards of the church, submit the following report:

The general activities of the Brotherhood shall be administered by the following Boards and Committees:

1. *The General Mission Board.* The duties of this Board shall be the same as heretofore. The number of members composing same shall be increased from five to seven to include two from the laity. The term of office shall be five years except the first election from the laity, which shall be, one for five years and one for four years.

2. *The Board of Religious Education.* This Board shall assume the duties of the General Sunday School Board, the General Welfare Board and the Music Committee. The number of members on this Board shall be seven. The term of office shall be five years save in the first election; one shall be elected for one year, one for two years, one for three years, two for four years and two for five years. The laity should be represented on this Board.

3. *The General Education Board.* This Board shall assume the duties assigned heretofore to the General Education Board and the Hospital Committee. The number of elective members of this Board shall be three, who shall serve for three years each except that in the first election one shall be elected for one year, one for two years and one for three years.

In addition to the elective members there shall be an ex-officio membership consisting of the heads of all recognized institutions of learning within the church.

4. *The General Ministerial Board.* The term of office and general duties shall remain as heretofore. This Board shall report annually to Standing Committee regarding the condition of the churches throughout the Brotherhood.

5. *The Annual Conference Program Committee.* This Committee



shall function as heretofore. It shall consist of three elective members in addition to the Moderator elect and the Secretary of Annual Conference, ex-officio. The term of office shall be three years.

Council of Promotion: J. A. Dove, Chairman; J. S. Noffsinger, Secretary.

Answer.—Report adopted.

### **Mission Field Problems**

#### *Query, 1926*

Because of some problems which touch doctrine and church polity arising from national customs in the growing churches on our mission fields, the General Mission Board asks the Annual Conference, through Standing Committee, to appoint a committee of five to study carefully these problems and to report to next year's Conference.

General Mission Board.

Answer.—Request granted.

Committee: J. J. Yoder, A. C. Wieand, I. W. Taylor, D. W. Kurtz, T. T. Myers.

#### *Report of Committee, 1928*

##### **Plural Marriage and Church Membership**

With reference to this question the Scriptures teach:

First: That monogamy is right in the nature of things as God created man, male and female, and that polygamy is wrong (Matt. 19: 4-6, 8).

Second: On the other hand, in both Old and New Testaments it is clear that mercy was shown in the matter of plural marriages.

Third: That while the apostolic church received into membership men with more than one wife, they could not hold official positions in the church (Titus 1: 6; 1 Tim. 3: 2).

Since our churches in the mission fields have conditions similar to those faced by the apostolic church they should use the same solution.

In the case of concubines, it seems clear that they should be put away.

At the same time we urge that caution be exercised, and that the true ideal of the Christian family, as taught in the Scriptures, be clearly and emphatically held before them.

##### **Feet-Washing**

First: After much prayerful thought on the problem of feet-washing, we see no scriptural grounds for omitting feet-washing from the communion service. But since the problem is acute in China because of the custom of foot-binding, we suggest that the Chinese congregations be advised to exercise their judgment as to who should be excused from feet-washing, until the time when foot-binding shall be a thing of the

past, when all members may engage in the ordinance as originally instituted.

Second: That the love feast may be so held as to permit of feet-washing in separate apartments that are both suitable and comfortable.

Third: That the spiritual significance and practical value of the ordinance of feet-washing shall be faithfully taught.

### Communion

The practice of the Church of the Brethren has been close communion, and we do not see our way clear to make any change.

Committee: J. J. Yoder, A. C. Wieand, I. W. Taylor, D. W. Kurtz, T. T. Myers.

Answer.—Report adopted.

### General Ministerial Board Asks for Installation Form

#### *Query, 1927*

Since there is a growing demand for pastors and an increasing number of installation services are being conducted, we request that General Conference authorize a form of installation service for use among the churches.

Answer.—Request granted, and the Board asked to report on forms next year.

### *Report of General Ministerial Board, 1928*

After the usual devotion, a sermon should be delivered by a member of the District Ministerial Board, or another chosen for this important service, setting forth the duties and responsibilities of both the pastor and the church. (Such texts as the following could be used: Isa. 6: 8-9; Jer. 1: 4-10; 3: 15; 23: 1-4; Matt. 9: 36-38; 28: 18-20; Mark 16: 15; Luke 4: 18-19; John 10: 1-18; 21: 15-17; Acts 10: 42; 13: 2; 20: 17-35; Rom. 1: 14-16; 10: 14-15; 1 Cor. 3: 1-9; 4: 1-2; 9: 16-17; 15: 1-11; 2 Cor. 6: 3-10; Eph. 4: 11-16; Col. 4: 17; 1 Tim. 1: 18-20; 2: 7; 3: 1-7; 4: 12-16; 6: 3-14; 2 Tim. 2: 1-7; 2: 15; Titus 1: 7-9; 1 Pet. 5: 1-5.)

After the presentation of the message, the following service of installation should take place:

Brother —, God has called you into his holy ministry. He has called you to the pastorate of this church. We so believe because your call was a subject of earnest prayer, both by you and by the church. Thus we have reason to believe that both the call to you by the church and your accepting the call were the leading of God.

*Question.* Are you persuaded that you are truly called to the pastorate of this congregation, according to the will of God?

*Answer.* I am persuaded.

*Question.* Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all teaching required of necessity for eternal salvation, through faith in Jesus

Christ, and are you determined out of the same Holy Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge?

*Answer.* I am so persuaded and determined.

*Question.* Will you be ready with faithful diligence to withstand, and to defend the church against all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to the Word of God as understood and practiced by the Church of the Brethren?

*Answer.* I am ready.

*Question.* Will you ever seek to deal justly and kindly with your brethren over whom you are placed as pastor?

*Answer.* I will.

*Question.* Are you willing to receive the charge?

*Answer.* I am.

### The Charge to the Pastor

"I charge thee therefore, Brother —, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be instant in season, and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and doctrine. . . . Watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry" (2 Tim. 4: 3, 5). May the Lord give unto thee the Holy Spirit for the work and ministry of a pastor in this church, now committed unto thee, and remember, "That thou stir up the gift of God which is in thee . . . for God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1: 6-7).

Then the officiant may deliver to him a Bible, saying:

"Give heed to reading, to exhortation, to teaching." Think upon the things contained in this Book. Be diligent in them, that the increase coming thereby may be manifest unto all men. "Take heed to thyself and them that hear thee." Be to the flock of Christ a good shepherd; feed them, hold up the weak, minister unto the sick, bind up the broken, bring in the outcast, seek the lost, be merciful; that, "When the chief Shepherd shall appear, you may receive the crown of glory," through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### The Charge to the Church

Brethren and sisters, you have called Brother — to be your pastor. He has accepted the call and received the charge. It is your duty now to give him loyal support. You should pray for him earnestly and regularly and be ready always to help him in every way you can. While he ministers to you in spiritual things, you should be diligent to minister to him in temporal things, remembering at the same time that he also needs spiritual comfort from you. That he may be self-respecting and be respected in the community, it is your duty to pay him promptly and regu-

larly whatever is due him. It is your duty, as much as lies in your power, to enable him to carry on the most efficiently his service as pastor.

*Question.* Are you willing to receive this charge? If so, you may manifest your willingness by standing.

(At this juncture a member of the local ministerial committee, or some one else appointed, may present the pastor with a key to the church, and with a few well chosen words assure the pastor of the loyalty of the congregation.)

Response by the pastor.

Prayer of consecration.

Closing moments.

Committee: D. H. Zigler, S. J. Miller, M. J. Brougher, J. J. Yoder, J. A. Robinson.

Answer.—Adopted as amended.

### **Discontinuance of the Council of Promotion**

An arrangement has been perfected whereby the General Boards in joint session can perform the work now being done by the Council of Promotion. The Council, therefore, requests Annual Conference to direct the General Boards to take over the duties and thus discontinue the organization known as the Council of Promotion.

Council of Promotion: J. A. Dove, Chairman. J. S. Noffsinger, Secretary.

Answer.—Request granted.

### **Conference Budget 1929-30**

General Mission Board .....	\$330,000.00
General Sunday School Board .....	21,500.00
General Ministerial Board .....	6,500.00
General Education Board .....	4,500.00
American Bible Society .....	500.00
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$363,000.00

Council of Promotion.

Budget approved.

### **Two Districts Merged**

Since the two Districts known heretofore as the Districts of First Arkansas and Southeastern Missouri and Southwestern Missouri and Northwestern Arkansas have both agreed in their respective District Meetings to form a merger of the two Districts, and since this action has been completed and since the formation of the one District from the two has been fully completed and named the District of Southern Missouri



and Arkansas, we hereby petition Annual Conference to endorse the change and accept the new District thus formed.

Signed by Committee representing both Districts: P. L. Fike, A. M. Peterson and J. Burnett.

Answer.—Request granted.

#### Location of the 1929 Conference

The Conference of 1929 was granted to the Middle Zone.

### 1929, North Manchester, Indiana

#### Transfer of Funds

The Board of Religious Education requests the privilege of transferring \$5,000 of its unused funds from the Conference budget for the year which closed Feb. 28, 1929, to the General Mission Board.

Board of Religious Education.

Answer: Request granted.

#### Conference Budget 1930-31

General Mission Board .....	\$275,500.00
Board of Religious Education .....	21,500.00
General Ministerial Board .....	8,500.00
General Education Board .....	5,000.00
American Bible Society .....	500.00
Total .....	<hr/> \$311,000.00

Council of Boards.

Answer: Budget adopted.

#### Help for Those Changing Location

Owing to a common problem in the Districts of the middle west, that of brethren moving out and selling their farms close to the church, and those whose principal interests are elsewhere, our Regional Conference has recommended that a locating committee be appointed in each local church, whose business shall be to see that those moving out have some one take their place, who, if not a member of the church, will co-operate with us in building up Christ's kingdom in the community. With this need in mind, the elders' body recommend that a query be sent to Annual Conference, petitioning that body to open the columns of the Messenger to co-operate with said local committees in letting the Brotherhood know where those desiring a change of residence may find a location.

Answer by Conference: The Messenger may be open for such material and for other proper advertisements, and all conflicting decisions are hereby repealed.

### **Telegram to President Hoover**

The Board of Religious Education recommends to Conference through Standing Committee that a telegram be sent to President Hoover pledging the united support of the church to his efforts toward law enforcement; toward the curbing of the forces that lead to war; and toward the development of international good will.

Answer: Referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

### **Additional Peace Worker**

The Board of Religious Education, recognizing the special need for more definite effort on the problem of peace, requests Annual Conference to advise regarding the securing and financing of an additional worker whose major emphasis shall be on peace.

Answer: We encourage the Board of Religious Education to take the necessary steps to place a man in the field as a peace worker.

### **Location of 1930 Conference**

The request of Eastern and Middle Pennsylvania that the next Conference be held in the Eastern Zone was granted.

## **1930, Hershey, Pennsylvania**

### **Doctrinal Teaching**

*Query, 1928*

To the General Conference, Church of the Brethren, Greeting:

Whereas, there seems to be an apparent decline in attitude to matters of faith, doctrine, and practice as set forth in the Holy Scriptures, and as held by the church, and

Whereas, there seems to be a want of effective instruction material to meet the requirements for juniors and seniors coming into the church, and

Whereas, much of the curricula of instruction used in the Sunday-school and young people's work is inadequate to build Christlikeness in spirit, thought and expression in all the different grades and departments of church work,

Therefore, we, the members of the First Church of the Brethren, Ashland, Ohio, beg leave to ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting

to appoint a committee of able and representative brethren to pursue a careful study of the field, and to make recommendations at the 1929 Conference.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Referred to Religious Education and Ministerial Boards to report to next Conference.

### *Report of the Boards, 1929*

The Board of Religious Education and the General Ministerial Board made a thorough study of the field covered by the query of 1928. The mind of the whole Brotherhood was sought by means of an extensive questionnaire. The result of this survey reflects urgent and varied needs. We therefore recommend that the entire subject be placed in the hands of the Committee on Curriculum of the Board of Religious Education with the request that this text or texts be correlated with the curriculum to cover the needs of the pastor and the church school, and that same be brought out and, if possible, be reported at next year's Conference for adoption or rejection.

Board of Religious Education.  
General Ministerial Board.

Answer: Report adopted as amended.

### *Report of Board of Religious Education, 1930*

In answer to the request of the Annual Conference of 1929, concerning the preparation of doctrinal materials, the Board of Religious Education submits the following report:

The Board has given careful consideration to the preparation of doctrinal materials covering the needs of the pastor and the church school. It is felt that this material should be an integral part of the total church program. Considerable doctrinal instruction must be and is included in the regular courses of study in the Sunday school, the Sunday evening meeting and other instructional meetings of the church.

The Board is of the conviction, however, that there is need for special texts for use in teaching the doctrinal principles of the church. The following suggested chapter headings indicate the scope of a text for Juniors and are submitted for your approval:

1. How to Make the Most of One's Life.
2. Making the Most of Life for Others.
3. Christ Our Leader.
4. What the Church Is.
5. What the Church of the Brethren Is.
6. The Work of the Minister.
7. The Church in the Community.
8. The Church at Home and Abroad.

9. Church Ordinances.
10. How One Becomes a Member.
11. What One Can Do as a Member.
12. How to Grow.

Additional texts will be provided as rapidly as is consistent with the total curriculum development.

Board of Religious Education.

Answer.—Report adopted.

### **Bethany Budget Merged With Conference Budget**

The trustees present the following recommendation for the consideration of this Conference:

I. Believing that the passing of two separate budgets by Annual Conference is confusing to our local churches, and believing, also, that the maintenance of two sets of machinery for the raising of these budgets involves unnecessary expense, we recommend that Annual Conference authorize the merging of these two budgets.

II. Since the fiscal year of Bethany Bible School begins July 1 and that of the General Boards begins March 1, we further recommend that two-thirds of Bethany Bible School's Budget be merged with this present year's general church budget.

Albert C. Wieand, President; J. Edwin Keller, Secretary.

(Similar requests came from the Middle District church of Southern Ohio and from the Northern District of Virginia.)

Answer of Conference: Request granted.

### **Conference Budget Adopted for 1931-32**

General Mission Board .....	\$261,905.00
Board of Religious Education .....	21,500.00
General Ministerial Board .....	8,095.00
General Educational Board .....	4,762.00
American Bible Society .....	476.00
Bethany Bible School .....	35,000.00
<hr/>	
Total.....	\$331,738.00

J. W. Lear, Executive Secretary,  
Council of Boards.

### **Conference Budget for 1930-31 as Revised**

The Council of Boards in called session passed a resolution requesting Annual Conference to reconsider the Budget for 1930-31 and reduce the amount thereof from \$311,000.00 to \$296,000.00.

J. W. Lear, Executive Secretary.



Note. Since Conference added Bethany Bible School to the Conference Budget for two-thirds of the year 1930-31, \$23,330.00 is added to this Budget.

### Co-ordinating Women's Organizations

#### *Request, 1928*

The Women's Work in the Church of the Brethren is broadening out into various activities in our local churches. We have a General Aid Society Board approved by Conference, a Mothers and Daughters' Association under the supervision of the General Sunday School Board, as well as Women's Missionary Societies in many local churches without any Brotherhood organization as yet. In view of these conditions, and believing that there should be one General Board to supervise all the activities of the women of the church, we, the General Aid Society Board, ask Standing Committee to consider this problem, and, if they see fit, to appoint a Committee to study the whole question of Organization of Women's Work and bring a report to Conference a year hence.

Mrs. J. C. Myers, President, Mrs. M. J. Weaver, Vice-President, Mrs. Levi Minnich, Secretary-Treasurer.

Answer—Request granted and a committee of five appointed.

Committee: Mrs. J. C. Myers, Mrs. Levi Minnich, Mrs. Eva Lichty Whisler, Mrs. J. Z. Gilbert, Mrs. M. J. Weaver.

#### *Report of Committee, 1929*

Believing that a more unified effort in the various departments of women's activities in our church would greatly enhance their work, we, the committee appointed at the Hershey Conference in 1927, present the following report:

After careful and prayerful study, the committee feels that the work of our women falls definitely under five heads, viz., The Aid Society, Mothers and Daughters' Association, Children's Division, Missionary Societies, and Bible Study. These five divisions each need a special leader or secretary. These secretaries to compose a board called The Council of Women's Work of the Church of the Brethren. The president of the Aid Society to be the secretary of the Aid Work on this Council. The President of the Mothers and Daughters' Association shall be the secretary of that organization on this Council. The secretary of the Children's Work who is appointed by the Board of Religious Education shall be the secretary of the Children's Work on this Council. The secretaries of the Missionary Societies and Bible Study shall be the secretaries of their respective departments on this Council.

Beginning with 1929, the secretaries of the Missionary Societies and Bible Study shall be elected by the women of the Church for a term of four years, to be presented to Conference for approval.

The members of this council shall have an organization among themselves with president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer. Once each year there should be a meeting, reporting the work of the various departments and plans for the future.

In order to maintain a co-operative spirit with all the work of the General Brotherhood, we suggest that this Council of Women request the privilege of one session of committee work together with the Council of Boards.

Respectfully submitted.

Committee: Mrs. M. J. Weaver, Mrs. Levi Minnich, Mrs. J. C. Myers, Mrs. S. L. Whisler, Mrs. J. Z. Gilbert.

The above report was considered and adopted by a general assembly of the women on Saturday morning and is hereby submitted to Conference for their approval.

Council of Women's Work of the Church of the Brethren: Secretary of Aid Society Work, Sister R. D. Murphy; secretary of Mothers and Daughters' Work, Sister J. Z. Gilbert; secretary of Missionary Activities, Sister Nora Rhodes; secretary of Bible Study, Sister Laura Swadley; secretary of Children's Division, Sister Ruth Shriver.

Answer by Conference: We accept the report and refer this matter to a committee of five, two to be selected by the Board of Religious Education from their number and three to be selected by the Council of Women's Work from their number, whose duty shall be to co-ordinate the work.

#### *Report of Committee, 1930*

The committee on the co-ordination of the program for the Council of Women's Work recommends the following:

1. That the Secretaries of Aid Society and Missionary Activities of the Council of Women's Work co-operate with the General Mission Board in the building and promotion of a common program.

2. That the Secretaries of the Mothers and Daughters' Association and Bible Study of the Council of Women's Work co-operate with the Board of Religious Education in the building and promotion of a common program.

3. That in view of the close relation between the Children's division program and that of the Women's Council the Director of Children's Work of the Board of Religious Education should continue as a Member of the Council of Women's Work.

4. That the Board of Religious Education request Conference to name the President of the Women's Council as an additional member of the Board of Religious Education.

5. That the question of financing the budget of the Women's Council be referred to the Council of Boards.

6. That encouragement should be given to the development of dis-

trict and local Women's Councils corresponding to the National Women's Council.

In no case does this report involve a duplication of organization and program, but it does provide an opportunity for co-ordination in a co-operative planning and promoting of work through organizations already set up.

Mrs. Ross D. Murphy, Mrs. J. Z. Gilbert, Miss Nora Rhodes, Rufus D. Bowman, L. W. Shultz, Miss Ruth Shriver.

Answer of Conference: Report adopted.

### **Peace Contests and Awarding Medals**

Since the Bible very forcefully teaches against the wearing of jewelry for adornment and since the Church of the Brethren has always taught and adhered to this teaching, Meadow Branch congregation asks District Meeting of Eastern Maryland to ask Annual Conference to disapprove the granting of bronze, silver, gold and diamond medals as rewards in Peace and other contests which are held from time to time by the Church of the Brethren.

Answer: Passed and sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer of Conference: We encourage interest in the great cause of peace, but discourage such evidences of recognition as tend toward either extravagance or vain display.

### **Authorized and American Revised Bible Texts**

The Tyrone church asks District Meeting to protest to the Board of Religious Education and to the Editor of our Sunday School publications through Annual Meeting, against the exclusive use of the American Revised Version text in our Sunday School publications, for the following reasons:

First, it is confusing to many who use their Bibles in Sunday School, as very few have the Revised text.

Second, the change serves no practical improvement in the study of the lesson. We do not say that the American Revision has no merit, but we urge a return to the Authorized Version, or to print the two versions in parallel columns.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer of Conference: We recommend the use of both Versions in our Sunday-school publications for the present.

### **Board of Religious Education Enlarged**

The Board of Religious Education petitions Annual Conference that the president of the Council of Women's Work and the president of the National Council of Men's Work be made additional members of the Board of Religious Education.

E. G. Hoff, Secretary pro tem.

Answer of Conference: Request granted.



### **Women's Work—Sixth Member**

The Council of Women's Work request that the report of the Committee on Women's Work accepted at last year's Conference be revised to provide the possibility of selecting one member in addition to the group already mentioned when deemed wise.

Mrs. Ross D. Murphy, President; Mrs. Laura G. Swadley, Vice-President; Nora M. Rhodes, Secretary; Mrs. J. Z. Gilbert; Ruth Shriver.

Answer: Request granted.

### **Conference Rule Amended**

Conference rule 1 was amended so as to read, "All questions, with their answers, for discussion, shall be read by the Reader, except 'Annual Reports,' which shall be read by some Board representative, after which the Moderator shall declare the same the business of the meeting."

### **Location of the 1931 Conference**

There were three requests for Conference of 1931, which was granted to the Western Zone.

## **1931, Colorado Springs, Colorado**

### **Certificates of Consecration and Baptism**

#### *Query, 1930*

1. Whereas there is a growing demand among the members of our churches, particularly the city congregations, for some kind of Consecration Service to be used in consecrating young children to the Lord; and since there is no Annual Conference provision for such a form of service: we, the Brooklyn congregation, petition Annual Conference through the District Meeting of S. E. Pa., N. J. and E. N. Y. to formulate a suitable form of procedure for a Consecration Service, and that such form of service be made available for the use of elders and pastors, who find it advisable to conduct consecration services.

2. Whereas many parents request that a suitable certificate be given them indicating that their child has been consecrated, and inasmuch as such a certificate becomes particularly valuable to both parents and child in later years; we, the Brooklyn congregation, petition Annual Conference through said District Meeting, to authorize the issuance of a Certificate of Consecration, which may be used by elders and pastors who find them desirable.



3. Whereas many pastors receive constant requests for baptismal certificates from those whom they baptize; we, the Brooklyn congregation, petition Annual Conference through said District Meeting, to authorize the issuance of a Baptismal Certificate, indicating the form of baptism practiced by our denomination, the age of the individual at the time of baptism and the date when the rite of baptism was administered.

Answer of District Meeting: Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of Conference: This paper is referred to the General Ministerial Board—sections 1 and 2 to be reported on next year, and section 3 to be provided as soon as possible.

### *Report of General Ministerial Board, 1931*

The General Ministerial Board recommends that the Conference approve Sections 1 and 2 of the query of 1930 concerning the consecration of children and offers the following suggestions for such a service:

#### I. General Statement

We recommend that churches that hold services for the consecration of children also emphasize the idea of the consecration of parents as well as the consecration of the congregation to the interests of its childhood. These services should be held at regular intervals, perhaps twice each year. We think that Christmas and Mother's Day, or Children's Day, would be appropriate occasions. They should be planned with great care. They should be simple, brief, and beautiful. They can best be held in connection with the regular church service, preferably being substituted for the opening worship program. All the details should be explained to the parents in advance. The service should open with the usual prelude or hymn. As this is concluded, the pastor should come into the church followed by the parents with their children. As they enter, the pastor may read or quote from memory appropriate verses of scripture. He should speak slowly but clearly and tenderly. The pastor's word to the parents should be brief, but with clear intimation of their responsibility. There should follow the declaration by the parents, a brief charge by the pastor, a prayer of consecration, and as the parents file out, or to their seats, there may be an appropriate hymn by the congregation or choir, special music, or organ postlude. Soft music could appropriately accompany the entire service. After the music, the minister will enter the pulpit and make an announcement to the congregation like this: "We have just witnessed the consecration of John Milton, son of Brother and Sister John Doe, and Martha Miriam, daughter of Brother and Sister William Blank. Certificates of consecration will be issued to these parents as a memorial of this service. May God bless these children and make them a blessing."

## II. A Suggested Form of Service

PRELUDE: Hymn, "O Thou Whose Feet Have Climbed" (Brethren Hymnal, No. 390).

PROCESSION: (The minister, followed by the parents with their children. The minister quoting Mark 10: 13-15).

"And they were bringing unto him little children, that he should touch them: and the disciples rebuked him. But when Jesus saw it, he was moved with indignation, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not: for to such belongeth the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall in no wise enter therein."

### CONSECRATION CHARGE AND PRAYER:

The minister: "God has intrusted this precious child (these children) into your care. He (she, they) is (are) as plastic clay in your hands to be shaped into a fit vessel (or vessels) for his service. Do you now present this child (these children) before God in solemn consecration?"

The parents shall answer: "We do."

The minister: "Do you consecrate yourselves as parents to the task of rearing your child in the 'nurture and admonition of the Lord'?"

The parents shall answer: "We do."

The minister: "Do you promise to instruct this little one in the Christian way of life, and to the best of your ability, provide a home atmosphere of devotion and prayer, and by your personal example lead him finally through confession and baptism into the fellowship of the church?"

The parents shall answer: "We do."

The minister: "Since you have solemnly promised before God and these people to rear this child for the service of Christ and to consecrate yourselves to this sacred task, I therefore charge you to be faithful to these solemn vows which you have made and to engage all help of home, family, and church to the end that God's will may be done in this tender life. May the blessing of God rest upon you. As we pray, will the congregation stand in consecration of itself to the spiritual welfare of these children?"

Prayer of Consecration: Oh, thou Master of us all, we beseech thee to bless this little one as thou didst bless little children during thy earthly ministry. Grant thy grace unto these parents that they may discharge faithfully the duties of home and family life. Guide them by thy Holy Spirit that they may always feed the lambs of thy fold with spiritual food. Holy Father, consecrate them unto the truth, the way, and the life as revealed in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

RECESSION: Hymn, "I Think When I Read That Sweet Story of Old"  
(Brethren Hymnal, No. 398), by the congregation as minister enters  
the stand and parents withdraw.

### III. We Recommend the Following Form as a Certificate of Consecration

#### Church of the Brethren Certificate of Consecration

.....

child of

.....

Born on the.....day of....., 19..

Was Consecrated

At the .....Church

This.....day of.....19..

.....

Minister.

General Ministerial Board.

Answer: Report adopted.

### Giving and Receiving Church Letters

#### Queries, 1923

(a) Inasmuch as there is a difference in practice among the congregations of the brotherhood, with regard to granting certificates of membership to members who do not fully conform to the order of the church in dress, the cause, perhaps, being from a varied interpretation of present decisions of Conference (see New Revised Minutes of Annual Meeting, page 39, Sec. 3 and page 213, Sec. 9):

We petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to give a decision that will obviate the confusion.

Passed to District Meeting of Northern Virginia by Unity congregation.

Passed to Annual Meeting by the District Meeting of the Northern District of Virginia, April 13, 1923.

(b) Since the various churches of the Brotherhood are not a unit in the matter of giving and receiving certificates of membership from one congregation to another, because of the dress question, we, the Elk Run congregation, ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting of the Second District of Virginia, to adopt some plan by which members, thus going from one locality to another, may receive recognition as such,



without violating the present decision of Annual Meeting, by those called upon to give and to receive such certificates. See Minutes of Annual Meeting (Appendix), page 60, Art. 1, 1907; also page 7, paragraph 6, 1921.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

These two queries were considered as one item.

Answer of Conference.—Decided to refer these two queries to a committee of five, to report to Conference of 1924.

Committee: D. M. Garver, James M. Moore, J. Carson Miller, S. S. Blough, W. B. Stover.

*Report of Committee, 1924, and Two New Queries*

(a) We, the members of the Mississinewa congregation, ask the Annual Conference through District Conference of Southern Indiana, to reconsider the report of the committee on "Giving and Receiving Certificates of Membership." Said report is as follows:

"To the Annual Conference of 1924, Greeting:

"We, the committee appointed by Conference of 1923 to consider the matter of giving and receiving certificates of membership, after a careful and prayerful consideration of the question herewith submit the following:

"We urge all members to give diligence so to live that there never need be any question as to the church granting or receiving a letter of membership (Phil. 2: 12).

**"1. Granting Letters of Membership**

"(1) In order that the spiritual life of members moving from one congregation to another may be best conserved, that growth in grace of such members may be fostered, and that they may function in the largest possible interests of the church, letters of membership shall be granted recommending them to the love and care of the congregation to which they go (2 Pet. 3: 18; Acts 20: 28).

"(2) If any member for any reason thinks that a letter should not be granted, he should state his objection in writing and deliver it to the elder (or pastor), properly dated and signed by himself. If the elder (or pastor) can succeed in having the objection withdrawn or removed, he shall instruct the clerk accordingly and the letter shall be granted. If the objection cannot be removed, the matter shall be presented as regular business to the open council for disposal (Matt. 18: 15-20).

"(3) In view of the importance of Gospel plainness and the simple life, if, because of a lack of complete harmony with the order of the church in dress, or for any other reason, the congregation does not see her way clear to grant a letter in full fellowship, she may state the exception on the back of the letter.



## "2. Receiving Letters of Membership

"(1) In order that members moving into a congregation may become a source of strength to the cause and also receive the needed fostering and guidance of the church, we recommend kindly consideration upon the part of the congregation with reference to all letters that are presented, with the hope of carrying out the purpose of the church in harmony with Conference decisions on the dress question (Matt. 18: 14).

"(2) At the time of the new affiliation, the letters shall be presented and the members (standing) shall be introduced to the congregation. At the same time they shall be asked to confess their willingness to work in harmony with the said congregation. In order that all may proceed harmoniously this course should be explained beforehand to the persons bringing letters, and their willingness to assent be assured.

## "3. Repeal of Previous Rulings

"With the adoption of this paper all previous rulings not in harmony are repealed.

"Committee: D. M. Garver, S. S. Blough, Wilbur B. Stover, J. Carson Miller, James M. Moore."

Answer by District Meeting.—Sent to Annual Meeting, asking that a new committee be appointed to take the whole subject under consideration, and report to Annual Meeting one year later.

(b) The Linville Creek Church, in council assembled March 14, 1925, respectfully petitions Annual Conference through District Conference of Northern Virginia to devise some plan by which the irregularities in the giving and receiving of letters of membership may be overcome.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer.—Request granted, and a committee of five appointed.

Committee: I. Bruce Book, H. C. Early, D. M. Garver, James M. Moore, I. N. H. Beahm.

## *Report of Committee, 1926*

After a careful and prayerful consideration of the matter of granting and receiving certificates of membership, your committee submits the following report:

### I. The Purpose of Certificates

1. To promote the continuous growth of both the individual and the church.

2. To protect the interests of both the individual and the church.

### II. Difficulties in Granting and Receiving Certificates

1. Personal differences.

2. Want of harmony with the doctrines of the church.

3. Want of harmony with the traditions, customs and usages of the church.

### III. Basic Principles

1. Since the local congregations are the units that constitute the general Brotherhood, to hold membership in a local congregation is to have membership in the general body. The New Testament is the basis of membership. Neither race nor location is considered. All are one in Christ Jesus.

2. The requirements for membership are the requirements for transfer of membership. Both are the same. Therefore, the requirements for the transfer of membership must not be greater than the requirements for membership.

### IV. Granting Certificates

1. Certificates shall be granted promptly to those moving from one congregation to another, recommending them to the love and care of the congregation to which they go, that they may receive at once the care of the church and contribute to the work of the church. See Art. 20, 1885, Revised Minutes, page 42.

2. If one has reason to object to granting a certificate, he shall submit his objection in writing to the elder (or pastor), dated and signed by himself. If the elder (or pastor) succeeds in removing the objection, the certificate shall be granted. If the objection can not be removed in this way, the matter shall be presented as regular business for the open council.

3. Since the membership is practically one in faith in the principles of simplicity and modesty—the simple life in general—but not all in complete harmony with all the methods employed to teach and enforce these principles, a congregation, when it cannot see its way to grant a certificate in full fellowship because of a lack of harmony with the order of the church in dress, or any other subject, may state the exception on the back of the certificate, after all reasonable effort has been made for reconciliation.

### V. Receiving Certificates

1. Members moving into congregations shall present their certificates at once, and when they are read they shall be introduced to the congregation. At the same time they shall be asked to pledge themselves to work in harmony with the general Brotherhood.

2. That members changing locations may steadily grow and work right on and become an asset to the cause of Christ, we recommend brotherly love and forbearance on the part of the congregation with reference to certificates presented that the ties of Christian fellowship may be strengthened and that the members of the body of Christ may finally become one, even as the Father and Son are one.

3. If a congregation decides finally not to receive a certificate presented to it, the matter shall be adjusted jointly by the congregation giving it, the individual receiving it and the congregation rejecting it. Chief responsibility in all such cases rests with the two congregations involved.

Upon the adoption of this report all previous decisions not in harmony with it are hereby repealed.

Committee: I. Bruce Book, James M. Moore, H. C. Early, D. M. Garver, I. N. H. Beahm.

Report adopted.

### *Queries, 1929*

1. The Big Swatara church in regular council assembled on March 11, 1929, asks Annual Meeting of the Church of the Brethren of 1929 through District Meeting of Eastern Pennsylvania, to repeal the Minute on "Giving and Receiving Certificates of Membership" adopted at the Annual Conference of 1926 as found on pages eight and nine of the minutes of the said year and adopt minute on "Church Letters Granted and Received," report of 1907, in the following revised form:

1st. It is the duty of a member or members on removing from a congregation to ask for a certificate of membership. If they fail to ask for one, then it is the duty of the church to supply them with a letter of membership, when there are no legal objections to it. If members live near to, or in removing are close to, the local church line, they may, by mutual consent of both congregations concerned, hold their membership in the other congregation where they do not reside.

2nd. Members should present their certificates of membership immediately after locating in a congregation. In case they fail to do so within six months from its date, the certificate should be renewed by the congregation granting it if so requested by the congregation in which they live.

3rd. Churches shall not grant letters of membership to, nor accept letters of membership from, members who are living in violation of the gospel as defined by Annual Meeting. See revised minutes, pages 211, 212, 213. Dress decision of 1911 reprinted 1917.

Answer by District Meeting: The District Meeting asks Annual Meeting of 1929 to grant what the query asks for.

Answer by Conference: We place this query in the hands of five elders nominated by the officers of this meeting with instruction to report a recommendation at next Conference.

Committee: J. A. Dove, V. F. Schwalm, S. H. Hertzler, A. C. Wieand, J. G. Stinebaugh.

### *Report of Committee, 1930*

We recommend that the 1926 decision on granting and receiving certificates of membership be revised to read as follows:

#### **I. Granting Certificates**

1. Certificates shall be granted promptly to those moving from one congregation to another, recommending them to the love and care of the



congregation to which they go, that they may receive at once the care of the church and contribute to the work of the church.

2. Each congregation must be its own judge while granting a letter of membership, whether or not the member seeking the letter has lived in harmony with the teachings of the New Testament as interpreted by the Church of the Brethren so as to justify the granting of said letter.

## II. Receiving Certificates

1. Members moving from one congregation into another shall present their certificates at once, and the elder or pastor shall read said letter to the membership, and upon their promise to co-operate with said congregation, they shall be declared members thereof.

2. Under all ordinary conditions a letter granted by one church should be accepted by another. Nevertheless, due to wide differences of practice in various parts of the Brotherhood and due to the confusion which this causes, a church may reject a letter from another local church whenever, in the judgment of the church, a member bearing such letter violates their interpretation of the decisions of Annual Conference. Whenever a church rejects a letter, the clerk shall notify the clerk of the issuing congregation, stating the reasons therefor, thereby charging the church granting the letter with the care of the member or members whose letters are rejected.

3. Members living close to the boundary line between two congregations, who, on account of transportation facilities find it more convenient to attend services in the adjoining congregation, may do so by consent of both churches involved, and thus hold membership in the congregation where they do not reside.

4. Upon the passage of this report all former decisions in conflict therewith are repealed.

Committee: J. A. Dove, S. H. Hertzler, J. G. Stinebaugh, V. F. Schwalm, A. C. Wieand.

Answer: Recommended to the same committee.

## *Report of Committee, 1931*

### I. General

1. A church letter is the medium of transferring membership from one local congregation to another. In doing so, the matter of primary importance is to provide continuous pastoral care for those changing location and thus conserve the spiritual interests of the individual member as well as of the church.

2. A church letter is the property of the member and should be sent directly to him. A person remains a member of the congregation from which he moves until he is accepted elsewhere.

3. In order to insure promptness in providing pastoral care, a church



granting a letter to a member shall at once notify the elder or pastor of the church into which the member has moved so that he may look after his spiritual interests. Churches, upon receiving a letter of membership, shall also promptly notify the church which issued the letter of its receipt.

## II. Granting and Receiving Letters

1. Members moving from one congregation to another should secure letters of membership from their home congregations and place them in the congregation to which they move. In all ordinary cases the church should encourage them to do so. However, if the member does not ask for a letter the advisability of issuing one shall be determined by the church, after consulting the member concerned.

2. If any member objects to the granting of a letter, the elder or pastor shall attempt to effect a reconciliation privately. If this attempt fails, the objections clearly stated in writing and signed shall be submitted to the elder or pastor, who shall refer the matter to the church for consideration and decision.

3. Members moving into congregations should present their letters to the pastor or elder at once. He having received their promise of co-operation with the congregation shall read their letters to the congregation after which they shall be recognized as members of the church.

## III. Extraordinary Situations

1. Under all ordinary conditions a letter granted by one church should be accepted by another. Nevertheless, due to wide differences of practice regarding some of the distinctive features of our church in various parts of the brotherhood, and due to the confusion which this causes, a church may reject a letter from another local church whenever in the judgment of the church a member bearing such letter violates the decisions of Annual Conference. Whenever a church rejects a letter the clerk or pastor shall notify the elder of the issuing congregation, stating the reasons therefor, thereby charging the church granting the letter with the spiritual care of the member or members whose letters are rejected.

2. When a congregation can not see its way clear to grant to a member a letter of fellowship because of lack of harmony with the distinctive practices of the church, it shall upon the request of the church to which the member has moved give the reasons for the refusal to grant such letter. If in the judgment of the church where the member resides, these reasons are not sufficient to withhold membership, said church may receive such into fellowship.

3. We would, however, call the attention of churches to the spiritual dangers involved in carelessly granting and receiving letters as well as in refusing to grant or to receive letters of members except for serious moral or spiritual laxity; also of members in refusing willing co-operation with the churches where they reside.

#### IV. Miscellaneous Provisions

1. In exceptional cases by consent of both churches involved, members may hold their membership in congregations where they do not reside.

2. When a member moves into a community in which there is no congregation of the Church of the Brethren, he may continue to hold his membership in his former church home or he may secure his letter of membership and place it in some nearer congregation.

3. Upon the passage of this report, all former decisions in conflict therewith are repealed.

Committee: C. D. Bonsack, J. G. Stinebaugh, S. H. Hertzler, A. C. Wieand, V. F. Schwalm.

Note: Because of the illness of Bro. J. A. Dove, Bro. C. D. Bonsack was asked to serve on this committee.

Answer.—Report adopted.

#### Concerning the Teaching of Evolution

##### *Query, 1929*

1. There is being taught in our public schools, colleges and universities in this United States of America the theory of evolution. This teaching is diametrically opposed to the teaching of the Bible, and has the effect upon our youth of breaking down their faith in God and undermining their morals.

Therefore, we, the Minot church, in regular quarterly council, March 16, 1928, petition Annual Meeting, through the District Meeting of North Dakota and Eastern Montana, that Annual Conference authorize our General Education Board to use their influence with congress, that the teaching of evolution may be abolished from our public schools, colleges and universities.

Decided that we grant their request as asked for, as it applies to the evolution of man.

(The same query came from the Kenmare church, North Dakota.)

Answer by Conference: We place these papers in the hands of our Board of Religious Education and our General Education Board, with instructions to bring to this Conference next year an answer that will be instructive and educational.

##### *Report of Commission, 1930*

We report progress and ask Conference to extend our time one year.

Board of Religious Education.  
General Education Board.

Answer: Request granted.

*Query, 1930*

2. We, the Trevilian congregation, petition Annual Meeting of 1930 through District Meeting of Eastern Virginia in 1929 to define our attitude as a church on evolution and to give instruction to our church schools and to our ministry on the undemonstrated theory of evolution. Our federal government at Washington is not in control of the public schools in the several States as to curriculum. The courses of study in public schools seem to be absolutely at the discretion of the several States. States' rights seem to be the absolute policy on what is to be taught in the public schools. It is enough at present, therefore, for us to take care of our own ministry and our own schools. We should take a super-interest in and a supervision of our own teaching forces.

Answer by local church: The Church of the Brethren has always endeavored to steer clear of speculative theology. We should likewise steer clear of speculative and undemonstrated science; we instruct our colleges and our ministry to teach fully and strongly the story of creation as set forth by Moses under divine authority. This shall be done in the light of all corresponding scriptures as well. Textbooks shall be arranged accordingly, and all teaching shall be done in like manner. If evolution be explained from its own point of view, it should also be shown that the Bible is the correct teaching for the church. Thus its influence will be counteracted. The church through her ministry and her colleges must be "set for the defense of the Bible."

Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: We refer this to the General Education Board and the Board of Religious Education without discussion.

*Report of Commission, 1931*

Evolutionary theories propose to explain how higher forms of nature have developed from lower forms. They propose to show how man has evolved from a lower species. This is the part of evolutionary theory that has been disturbing religious thought and faith. But this form of evolution is only a theory. While many scientists strongly uphold it, many do not. Some scientists strongly deny the truth of the theory and especially many of the unwarranted deductions that have been made from it. Considering the lack of definite scientific proof of this theory and especially the disastrous influence of materialistic evolution upon the Christian faith, Christian teachers should emphasize the teaching of the Bible on man's origin, nature and destiny.

Genesis gives the most original and authentic information that we have on this subject. Other scriptures throw light on the subject. "The Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2: 7). "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall re-



turn to God who gave it" (Eccl. 12: 7). In these scriptures a few things are made clear: Man is a child of God who created him. Man has a physical nature, for his body was made out of the elements of the earth. Man has also a spiritual nature, for he was made in the image of God. Paul tells us that God hath made of one blood all nations of men (Acts 17: 26). And again, "The spirit beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God."

With this knowledge and with the assurance of the truth of our Christian faith from the Bible and from history, reason, and experience, the church should not be disturbed over evolution or any other scientific theory. Neither should we ask for legislation against any of these theories, for it would have little effect on the teaching of them. Rather we would recommend that the church increase her efforts to teach, to preach and to demonstrate the truth of the gospel of Christ as the power of God unto salvation to all who believe.

Board of Religious Education, General Education Board.

Answer.—Report adopted.

#### **When a Minister Commits a Gross Sin**

The Morrellville Church of the Brethren asks District Meeting of Western District of Pennsylvania to petition General Conference of 1931, to be held at Colorado Springs, Colo., to pass the following:

Inasmuch as looseness of the marriage vow and "companionate marriage" are being held up boldly and favorably before the world and the church through many influential avenues; and disregard for proper standards of purity in social circles is thereby on an alarming increase; and

Inasmuch as a minister of the Gospel is in all things to show himself an ensample of good works (Titus 2: 7), "must have good testimony from them that are without" (1 Tim. 3: 7, R. V.); and "be . . . an ensample to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, . . . in purity" (1 Tim. 4: 12 R. V.),

Therefore, it is decided that any minister of the Church of the Brethren who is found guilty of the gross sin of fornication or adultery referred to in First Corinthians 5, shall not only be deposed from his ministry (and at the discretion of the congregation, lose his membership) (1 Cor. 5: 5), but he can not be restored to the office of minister, or be placed in any other office of the church, Sunday-school or other church activities, without the unanimous consent of the entire membership of the congregation, and in the presence of at least three elders. There are some cases, however, so grievous that he can not be received into the ministry at any time, and congregations are exhorted to act in such instances so as to uphold the high office of minister of the Gospel.



Further, that Art. 3, 1895, may be, at the discretion of the congregation, the rule in restoring to the ministry in all cases save herein provided. That the passage of this paper reaffirms and enlarges the decision of Art. 15, 1872.

Passed.

Answer of Conference: A minister who has been deposed for any misdemeanor except that of fornication or adultery may be restored to his office, one degree at a time, beginning with the licentiate, by not less than a two-thirds vote of all votes cast in the presence of a representative of the District Ministerial Board.

A minister who has been deposed for the act of fornication or adultery (see 1 Cor. 5: 9-11) may be restored to the ministry, if, after at least one year of exemplary Christian living in the judgment of the District Ministerial Board, his repentance has been genuine and the need justifies his restoration. The District Ministerial Board may recommend first to the Elders' Meeting, then to the local church that he be licensed to preach for one year. In both the Elders' Meeting and the local church a two-thirds vote of all votes cast is required. If after a year or more he proves faithful he may be advanced to the full ministry in the usual way.

#### Budget for 1932-33

The Council of Boards submits the following Budget for consideration and approval:

General Mission Board .....	\$249,000
Board of Religious Education .....	20,000
General Ministerial Board .....	7,000
General Education Board .....	1,500
Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	30,000
Ministerial Relief .....	10,000
American Bible Society .....	500
	<hr/>
	\$318,000

Answer of Conference: Passed.

#### Pastors' Association Recognized

We, the Pastors' Association of the Church of the Brethren, in special business session petition Annual Conference through the General Ministerial Board that the Conference assembled at Colorado Springs give due recognition and sanction to the Pastors' Association and approve the officers elected through nomination by the Association.

J. Clyde Forney, President; Ross D. Murphy, Vice-President; C. G. Hesse, Sec.-Treas.

The General Ministerial Board approves of the petition and recom-

mends to the Annual Conference, through Standing Committee, that recognition be granted the Pastors' Association.

S. J. Miller, Chairman; J. A. Robinson, Secretary.

Answer of Conference: Request granted.

### **Secretary to Approve Payment of Bills**

Voted to authorize the Secretary to approve bills that are to be paid by the Annual Meeting Treasurer, and that those presenting bills for travel should be allowed actual expenses only. (Heretofore both the Moderator and the Secretary approved bills.)

### **Peace Resolutions**

The Board of Religious Education petitions this Conference to pass the following special resolutions:

First, That this Conference urges the President of the United States to take steps to bring about a drastic reduction in armament expenditures in both land and naval forces, and that the United States take the initiative step at the Geneva Disarmament Conference in 1932.

Second, That the Church of the Brethren disapproves the aggressive policy of the War and Navy Departments through their channels of propaganda to militarize this nation.

Third, That the church reaffirms its position on peace and goodwill and refuses to sanction or take any part in war.

Fourth, That the church vigorously opposes the passage of any laws which will authorize universal conscription in peace times.

Answer of Conference: Resolutions approved.

### **Prohibition Resolutions**

The Board of Religious Education in session at Colorado Springs, June 10, petitions the Annual Conference of 1931 to go on record with the following declaration on Prohibition:

First, That the Church of the Brethren assembled in its one hundred and thirty-third Convention, June 10-16, 1931, reaffirms its belief in and support of the Prohibition laws of the United States, and pledges its support to President Herbert Hoover in his effort to uphold and enforce the laws.

Second, That the Church of the Brethren opposes the modification of the Volstead Act or the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment.

Third, That the Church of the Brethren will support only dry candidates for public office who declare their willingness to support and maintain the Prohibition laws of this nation.

C. Ernest Davis, Chairman; Rufus D. Bowman, General Secretary.

Answer of Conference: Passed.

### Location of the 1932 Conference

Northern Indiana and Southern California asked for the 1932 Conference. The delegates voted for the Central Zone.

## 1932, Anderson, Indiana

### Classification of Membership

#### *Query, 1931*

The Olivet congregation assembled in council on June 4, 1930, asks Annual Conference through District Meeting of Northeastern Ohio to study the question of qualifications of active and inactive membership; also resident and non-resident membership and to establish a standard for the purpose of determining the standing of members in the local churches.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer of Conference, 1931: Spread on the Minutes for one year for study.

#### *Answer of Standing Committee prepared by the General Ministerial Board, 1932*

#### I. Resident and Non-resident Membership.

1. A resident member is one who holds membership in the congregation where he lives.
2. A non-resident member is one who lives outside the territorial bounds of the congregation in which he holds his membership.

#### II. Active and Inactive Membership.

1. An active member is one who avails himself of the public means of grace by attending some regular church service, or a communion service, or contributes to the support of the gospel and the various enterprises in such way as he is able.
2. Any member who without sufficient reason shall fail to comply with the requirements for active membership for two consecutive years, after earnest but ineffectual effort by the church to arouse the member to the observance of his vows, may, by action of the church or the membership committee, be recorded in a separate list as inactive, until such times as he shall again become active. A minister who is placed on the inactive membership list shall not have his name appear on the ministerial list of the Yearbook until he again becomes active.

### III. Absent Membership.

Any member whose residence cannot be ascertained for three consecutive years shall have his name placed on an absent list and shall not be counted in the statistical list.

### IV. Budget Basis.

Only active members, both resident and non-resident, shall be counted in making up the budget for District and General Conference.

### V. Membership Termination.

Membership in the Church of the Brethren may be terminated by death, withdrawal, expulsion, or by letter of transfer.

Answer of Conference, 1932: Adopted as amended.

## **Changes Proposed for Holding Annual Conference**

### *Queries, 1930*

1. Whereas: Annual Meeting Minutes do not require the Moderator to give an inaugural address, and suggest no time for it to be given (see Minutes of 1924 under plan for Standing Committee), and whereas, such an address could be given more advantageously on Monday evening, the Nappanee church petitions Annual Conference through the District Meeting of Northern Indiana, to decide that if such addresses be given, they shall be delivered on Monday evening preceding the business part of the meeting.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

2. Being of the opinion that the Annual Meeting Business Session held as it is after several days of strenuous educational and inspirational meetings and conferences, tends to minimize the importance of the Business Session, invites undue haste in matters requiring more deliberate action and indicates a lack of co-ordination with the preceding sessions of the Conference, therefore, we, the First Church of the Brethren in Chicago, petition the Annual Meeting through the District Meeting of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin to appoint a committee of five to consider the whole matter, arrange a plan of co-ordinating the several sessions of Conference so as to correct present unfortunate tendencies and report to the next Annual Meeting.

Answer: Passed to Annual Conference.

3. Will District Meeting of Middle Missouri send the following paper to Annual Meeting of 1930?

Whereas: There is increasing recognition that, due to the growth of the church, and the wideness of the territory represented in the Brotherhood, the holding of General Conferences annually is costing large



sums of money, much of which might otherwise be used to better advantage in the cause of evangelism; and,

Whereas: Participation in each General Conference is possible to only a comparatively few of our membership, and some sections are never favored with a General Conference;

Therefore: Will Annual Meeting of 1930 appoint a committee of five to consider, and if found advisable, to formulate a plan for holding General Conference less frequently than annually, unless special occasion may demand, and for the organizing of Regional Conferences to be held each year in which there will be no General Conference? This committee to report to Annual Meeting of 1931.

Answer by District Meeting: Passed to Annual Meeting.

4. Since there is a growing sentiment in the Brotherhood that the Business Sessions of Annual Conference should be held at an earlier period in said Conference, or alternate with the General Program, and thereby provide that the address of welcome, the Moderator's address, letters of greeting, etc., be given their logical place on the Conference Program, therefore, the Cloverdale congregation requests District Meeting of the First District of Virginia to ask Annual Conference to consider the advisability of making such change, and if thought expedient, to authorize same in the general arrangement of the Conference program.

Passed and sent to Annual Conference.

5. At the request of the Standing Committee the General Mission Board requests the Conference to decide whether or not the "Full Report" shall be continued to be published, since the demand is decreasing and it continues to be published at a loss.

General Mission Board.

Answer by Conference: These five queries are referred to a committee of five.

Committee: J. A. Dove, J. W. Lear, I. W. Taylor, Otho Winger, A. C. Wieand.

### *Report of Committee, 1931*

Your Committee submits its report as follows:

1. That the Full Report of the Business Sessions of Annual Meeting be discontinued.
2. We encourage the idea of the leaders of Districts getting together in conference by regions to assist each other in promoting the work of the Districts and to train leaders, but we do not, at this time, favor an action of the Annual Meeting which would establish regional boundaries and make Regional Conferences mandatory.
3. A plan for the Annual Conference Program:
  - a. Standing Committee shall meet Tuesday at 8:00 A. M.

- b. Business sessions of the Annual Conference shall be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday forenoons and in case of necessity the business sessions shall take precedence over other meetings.
- c. General programs shall be arranged for Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons.
- d. Sermons and addresses each evening of the Conference.
- e. The Conference shall close on Sunday with Evangelistic and Missionary Convocations.

Committee: C. D. Bonsack, J. W. Lear, I. W. Taylor, Otho Winger, A. C. Wieand.

Answer: Recommended to the above committee.

#### *Report of Committee, 1932*

I. Since the Conference of 1931 decided to discontinue the Full Report, we regard this matter as settled.

II. We encourage the idea of the leaders of Districts getting together in conference by regions to assist each other in promoting the work of the District, but we do not favor establishing Annual Regional Conferences to replace our General Annual Conference.

III. Because of the increasing scope of the matters considered in the resolutions of Annual Conference, we recommend that the Committee on Resolutions be a permanent one of three members, each of whom shall serve three years, except those first appointed, who shall serve for three, two, and one year respectively.

IV. We recommend the following plan for the sessions of our Annual Conference:

1. Standing Committee shall convene at 1:00 P. M. on Wednesday, with the Moderator-elect in charge.

2. On Wednesday and Thursday opportunity is provided for sectional meetings and for business sessions of the General Boards.

3. The public sessions of Conference open on Thursday evening. This will be an appropriate time for an address of welcome and response.

4. The Credentials Committee holds its opening session at 9:00 A. M. on Friday for the registration of delegates.

5. The opening business session convenes on Friday evening. At this time the committees appointed are announced, letters of greeting are read, and the Conference sermon is preached by the Moderator.

6. The Conference reconvenes in business session on Monday at 9:00 A. M. This session should consider the Report of the Committee on Resolutions, approve new missionaries, and take up any other business it may choose.

7. The Missionary Convocation is to be held on Monday afternoon.

8. Business sessions shall be continued on Tuesday at 8:00 A. M.

9. All sessions, programs, and speakers not herein provided for are to be arranged by the Conference Program Committee.

Committee: C. D. Bonsack, I. W. Taylor, J. W. Lear, Otho Winger, A. C. Wieand.

Answer of Conference: Report adopted.

### **Building and Financing Churchhouses**

We, the Bridgewater church, petition Annual Conference of 1932, through the District Meeting of the Second District of Virginia, to appoint a competent committee to study the problem of church construction with a view of developing some plan by which the general church may share with the local congregation in the responsibility of locating churchhouses and may exercise some authority over architectural plans and methods of financing building enterprises.

Answer of Conference: We refer this query to the General Ministerial Board and the Board of Christian Education to report to next Conference.

Note: No reference to this is found in later minutes.

### **1932-33 Budget, Reduction**

1. In the light of the giving of the churches for 1931-32 the Council of Boards requests Annual Conference to reconsider the action of last year in approving a Conference Budget of \$318,000 in favor of a reduced budget for 1932-33.

2. The Council of Boards proposes a reduced Conference Budget of \$275,000 as follows:

#### **I. Church Service:**

General Mission Board .....	\$ 18,000
Board of Christian Education .....	18,000
General Ministerial Board .....	5,500
General Education Board .....	1,500
Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	25,000
Council of Boards .....	7,000
Ministerial Relief .....	10,000
American Bible Society .....	500
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	\$ 85,500

II. Missions .....	189,500
Total .....	\$275,000

Answer of Conference: Approved.

### **Budget, 1933-34**

The Council of Boards presents the following as the Conference Budget for 1933-34:

## I. Church Service

1. Mission Board .....	\$ 18,000
2. Board of Christian Education .....	19,500
3. Ministerial Service .....	5,500
4. Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	25,000
5. General Education Board .....	1,500
6. Council of Boards .....	7,000
7. Ministerial Relief .....	10,000
8. American Bible Society .....	500

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 \$ 87,000

II. Missions ..... 188,000

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 Total .....\$275,000

Answer of Conference: Approved.

### Conference Message to the Brotherhood

Inasmuch as many of our congregations are adopting policies of retrenchment in this time of economic crisis; and, since there seems to be a tendency to curtail and even discontinue pastoral service in churches which have been supporting pastors; and, since this policy, if adopted by any considerable number of churches, will inevitably work hardship and even distress upon many consecrated ministers and their families and will seriously handicap the work of the church in a time when religious service is so urgently needed; and, since the dismissal of pastors in times of financial strain has in it an element of injustice and tends to discourage young men now in preparation for the ministry and will possibly divert many of them into other callings and thus create serious future consequences for the church;

Therefore, this Conference makes the following request of congregations and ministers throughout the Brotherhood:

1. That congregations which are now being served by supported pastors do not interrupt their pastoral programs to the detriment of the work. Curtailment can usually be made at other points with less serious consequences to the congregation.

2. That congregations which are able and have been considering a change from the free to the supported ministry endeavor to speed up action where this can be done agreeably to the church in order to more nearly absorb our supply of consecrated and efficient men now ready for pastoral service.

3. That the ministers of the church who are serving as pastors, in spite of the sacrificial service which they are and have been making, adjust themselves as fully as possible to the stress and strain under which our churches now find themselves.

Answer of Conference: We approve these recommendations.



### **Eighteenth Amendment**

We, the Young People of the B.Y.P.D., and the Women's Work, both assembled at Anderson, Ind., petition the 1932 Annual Conference, through the Board of Religious Education, to reaffirm our position in favor of the Eighteenth Amendment without reserve.

The above request sent in by the B.Y.P.D. and the Women's Work was considered by the Board of Religious Education, approved and passed to the Conference through Standing Committee.

Answer of Conference: We do so without reserve.

### **Board of Religious Education, Change of Name**

The Board of Religious Education recommends to the Annual Conference of 1932 that the name of Board of Religious Education be changed to Board of Christian Education.

Answer of Conference. We approve the change of name.

### **Church Position on War**

The Board of Religious Education recommends to the Annual Conference of 1932 the following statement as the church's attitude toward war:

One of the fundamental tenets of the Church of the Brethren since its origin in 1708 has been the acceptance of the New Testament as its rule of faith and practice. Our church fathers have consistently taught and declared in private life as well as in official pronouncements that Christianity and war are incompatible. They believed in, and taught the gospel of peace and goodwill. They founded their faith in the spirit and teaching of the Bible as exemplified in the life and teachings of the Prince of Peace.

The Church of the Brethren was founded in Europe at a time when persecution, hatred, war and bloodshed tried the souls of men. The church fathers suffered persecution and imprisonment for the cause of freedom. They suffered greatly during the trials and tribulations of the war periods because of their non-resistance. Their peace principles were misunderstood and sometimes challenged, but their faith and convictions remained steadfast. They taught that war is out of harmony with the spirit of Jesus.

Our Conference has clearly defined the doctrine of non-resistance to its members. The fathers were unalterably opposed to war and refused to bless, sanction or take part in warfare. They confined their teaching to the overt acts of war as it related to their own membership more than to aggressive opposition to the war systems among all peoples and nations.

For more than two centuries official decisions and pronouncements have been made from time to time on the subject. The implications of

the peace ideals, the fundamental persuasion that the whole war system is wrong, have deepened the conviction in the membership of the Church of the Brethren that war has no place in human society.

Therefore, we feel bound to avow our conviction that all war is out of harmony with the plain precepts of the Gospel of Christ, and that no plea of necessity or policy, however urgent, can be set up to release either the individual or any nation from the paramount duty which they owe to Jesus who enjoined all men to love their enemies. We express, in all humility, our firm persuasion that all problems, questions and exigencies incident to the well-being of civil government and the social order can be settled under the banner of the Prince of Peace in strict conformity to his commands.

We reaffirm our loyalty to the government and pledge our efforts to create a social order for the well-being of all, to foster international understanding and brotherhood among the peoples of the earth, to overcome evil with good, to love our enemies, to establish peace and goodwill among all peoples, to remove as far as possible the cause of hate and strife, and to foster such principles of righteous living as will banish war and bloodshed from the earth.

The fundamental ground of our opposition to war is religious and ethical. Our position is one which attaches to the inherent nature of right which grows out of an abiding consciousness of the individual's obligation of what the enlightened soul ought to be. The Christ way of life revealed in the Holy Scriptures, the voice of conscience revealed in the soul, make our participation in war under any and all circumstances impossible.

We reaffirm our belief that all problems of controversy, misunderstanding and conflicting interests of whatever nature can and should be settled by pacific means. We believe also that any attempts to teach, cultivate, foster, or extend the military spirit in our civil and educational institutions is incompatible with the true spirit of democracy; and that such military programs should be discouraged by all people who believe in the solemn covenants which this nation has made in the Paris Peace Pact and other peace sanctions.

We reaffirm our belief in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and that the followers of Christ cannot take part in destroying the lives of men whom God has created in his image and likeness. God is love and we believe that his children should overcome evil with good. We further believe that our allegiance to the Will of God transcends all commands, orders, or mandates incident to the will of man where the voice of conscience and faith have been made subject to the demands of men.

And finally we believe that the Church of Christ with its spirit of love and good will transcends all divisions of nationality, all prejudices, and

all hatreds of nations against nations, race against race, class against class, and that the true disciple will exemplify in his life the Spirit of the Prince of Peace.

Answer of Conference: We adopt this as our attitude towards war.

### **National Council of Men's Work, Resolutions of**

Whereas, the Men's Work organization is desirous of being of more service in the program of the local church, and

Whereas, the ministers and pastors are the natural contactors between the central organization of our church at Elgin, Ill., and the local churches,

1. Therefore, be it resolved that the ministers and pastors be asked to recognize and sponsor the program of Men's Work in the local church in its fivefold aspect, namely:
  - a. The promotion of Personal Evangelism.
  - b. The promotion of Missions.
  - c. The promotion of Stewardship.
  - d. The promotion of Christian Education.
  - e. The promotion of Social Service.
2. In view of the serious economic situation throughout our country by reason of which the work of the church is suffering severely, that special effort be made in all congregations to improve church attendance of the membership, and that the men of each congregation be asked to put on special campaigns for regular attendance and that the pulpit shall emphasize and sponsor this work under the head of Personal Evangelism of Men's Work program, and that for meeting the depressive state of mind in our membership with reference to giving toward church projects because of the depression, that the Program of Men's Work on Stewardship be introduced and taught in Men's and Women's and Young People's Bible Classes or in special classes, that the entire membership may become regular and punctual in their giving of time and money to the church.

Answer of Conference: We endorse these resolutions and urge a greater use and recognition of our laymen in the work of the local churches and Brotherhood.

### **Location of the 1933 Conference**

Three districts asked that the Conference for 1933 be held in the Eastern Zone. Conference so voted.



## 1933, Hershey, Pennsylvania

### Divorce and Remarriage

*Query, 1932*

We, the French Broad Church of the Brethren, petition the District Meeting of Tennessee, which assembles at the New Hope church Aug. 13, 14 and 15, 1931, to ask the General Conference of 1932: Whether a man or woman may be received into the church by baptism, who has been divorced for reasons other than fornication or adultery and then remarries and has a family? The first marriage and divorce, the second marriage and several years of married life with a number of children born to the second union all precede a knowledge of the teaching of the Bible, a knowledge of the stand the church has taken on the divorce question as well as a convicting knowledge of sin.

Passed the Tennessee District Meeting August 14, 1931.

Answer of Conference: We commit this paper to a committee of three to consider the whole question of divorce and remarriage, and report to next Conference.

Committee: David Metzler, A. C. Wieand, Otho Winger.

### *Answer of Committee, 1933*

#### I. The Teaching of the Scriptures

The teaching of Jesus concerning divorce is to be found in the following scriptures: Matt. 5:27-32; 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18. From these scriptures the following truths seem evident:

##### 1. The Original Intention of God.

"From the beginning of creation" God's will for men and women was the establishment of the home through the marriage of one man and one woman for life (Gen. 1:27; 2:18, 24; Mark 10:9). Throughout the scriptures the sacredness and importance of the home was emphasized. Anything that tends to break the marriage relation and destroy the home is severely condemned. The only reason why Moses made an exception to this fundamental law was the sinful natures of men (Mark 10:4, 5).

##### 2. The Teaching of Jesus.

Jesus upheld the original decree of God (Mark 10:7-9). His teaching may be summarized as follows:

- (a) Anyone who divorces a companion and marries another commits adultery.
- (b) Anyone who marries a divorced person commits adultery.
- (c) There is only one legitimate cause for divorce—"except it be for fornication."



But does this exception permit remarriage, or only provide for *legal separation*? Neither Mark nor Luke states this exception. The sacredness and permanence of the home, as ordained by God, would not be in harmony with *remarriage*. Neither would the teaching of Paul (1 Cor. 7: 10 and 11). The only interpretation that would seem to harmonize these scriptures is that, while fornication would be a sufficient cause for divorce, it would not be a legitimate reason for *remarriage*.

### 3. The Teaching of the Apostles.

While there are many references in the teachings of the apostles upholding purity of life for both married and unmarried persons, the direct references to divorce are to be found in Rom. 7: 1-3 and 1 Cor. 7: 10-17. From these scriptures the following points seem evident:

- (a) Men and women should not divorce their companions. They are bound to them as long as their companions live.
- (b) If men or women leave their companions, let them remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to their companions.

### 4. The Practice of the Apostolic Church.

The only references to apostolic practice concerning divorce and church membership are to be found in 1 Tim. 3: 2, 12; Titus 1: 6. The implication of these scriptures would seem to be that, while the church was upholding the original law of God and the teachings of Jesus, yet persons with more than one living companion were sometimes admitted to church membership but not to official position in the church.

## II. The Duty of the Church

The responsibility of the church regarding marriage is made plain by the following considerations:

- (a) The inspired utterances of both the Old and New Testaments revealing the social and sacred relationship of marriage;
- (b) The growing disregard for this divinely ordained institution;
- (c) The various agencies creating sentiment against the sacredness of marriage and the home;
- (d) The evils resulting from broken homes.

Therefore,

1. It shall be the duty of the officials of the church to work in every way possible to uphold the sacredness of the marriage relation and to encourage the building up of real Christian homes.

2. Ordained ministers performing marriage ceremonies should exercise care not to officiate at weddings where the contracting parties already have one or more living companions.

3. Elders, pastors, ministers, Sunday-school teachers and the Board of Christian Education shall, in their respective fields of service, provide

proper instruction both to the youth and to the married concerning the sacredness of marriage and the home in order that the purity, dignity, and happiness of these divine institutions may be maintained.

### III. Dealing With Exceptions

While thus faithfully upholding the fundamental law of marriage as ordained by God and as taught by Jesus and his apostles, and while diligently teaching and testifying to these principles to all persons, especially the youth and the membership of the church, what is to be the attitude of the church towards receiving or holding as members those who are divorced or who have committed the sins of fornication and adultery?

1. Since "neither fornicators nor adulterers can enter the kingdom of God," the church cannot hold as members either unmarried or married persons who have committed the sins of fornication and adultery, unless they sincerely repent and refrain from these sins (Gal. 5: 19-21; Eph. 5: 3-5; 1 Cor. 6: 9-10).

Such persons, however, may be led to see their sin and repent and be forgiven and held as members. As Paul said, they may be "washed" and "sanctified," and "justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6: 11; compare also 2 Cor. 2: 5-8).

2. When a married person, who has a former companion living, applies for membership in the church, the officials, after securing information about the case, may present the application to the church. If there seems to be evidence of repentance from sin and a desire to live as nearly right as possible thereafter, the church, praying the direction of the Holy Spirit, shall decide whether such person shall be received as a member, but such a person shall not be eligible to the office of deacon or minister.

3. The same procedure may be taken concerning holding as members those in the church who marry again while a former companion is living.

4. In receiving or retaining such persons as members, the church is not ignoring the Christian ideal of marriage but is making an exception for the truly repentant, giving them the advantage of church membership and commending them to the mercy, love and grace of God—as it seems evident that the apostolic church sometimes did.

David Metzler (Parts I and II), A. C. Wieand, Otho Winger.

Answer of Conference: Report passed.

### International Goodwill

#### *Query, 1932*

We, the Young People's Congress of the B.Y.P.D. assembled at Anderson, Ind., petition the 1932 Annual Conference, through the Board of Religious Education, as follows:

1. To build up a church program of international goodwill.

2. To investigate and provide a program of service in co-operation with the Friends or otherwise in establishing special arrangements for neutral relief work in time of war or periods of national crises.

3. To authorize the Board of Religious Education to make the necessary investigation and build up the programs needed for the above action.

The above request by the B.Y.P.D. was carefully considered by the Board of Religious Education, approved and passed to the Conference through Standing Committee.

Answer of Conference: Request granted.

#### *Answer of Board of Christian Education, 1933*

The Board of Christian Education is giving earnest consideration to the above request and is making the necessary investigations looking toward providing a suggestive program of service in co-operation with the Friends and other pacific bodies in neutral relief work in time of war and other periods of national crises.

A committee of five has been appointed, consisting of the Director of Young People's Work; and four others of our number who worked with the Friends in relief work during the last war, to give the Board help out of their experience in working out this program. The committee has been functioning and valuable investigations have been made.

As a work of this kind requires more time for investigation and completion we are unable to give a full report at this meeting. Therefore, the Board of Christian Education requests the Annual Conference of 1933, assembled at Hershey, Pa., for the privilege of presenting its recommendations on relief work to the Annual Conference of 1934.

Board of Christian Education.

Answer of Conference: Report accepted and request granted.

#### **Ministerial Standards**

We, the B.Y.P.D. of the Anderson Church of the Brethren, submit the following resolution to the District B.Y.P.D. of Southern Indiana in conference assembled July 10, 1932, at Anderson, Indiana:

"Be it resolved that the District B.Y.P.D. of Southern Indiana petition, through the Sunday School Board of said District, the District Meeting of Southern Indiana, assembled in the White church, Aug. 25, 1932, as follows:

"That the District Meeting institute some method of procedure for the improvement of our present ministry and the establishment of standards for the training and election of new ministers.

"Approved and passed by the B.Y.P.D. of Southern Indiana."

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of Conference: Referred to the General Ministerial Board.



### **Marriage by Civil Officers**

We, the Brethren of the Minot church, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting of North Dakota and Eastern Montana as follows: Since matrimony is a sacred institution, what should be the attitude of the Church of the Brethren towards members who go before an officer of the law to be married? What steps should be taken to discourage this practice?

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer of Conference: To emphasize the sanctity of the marriage relation we urge our members to be married by ministers in the church, the home or the parsonage.

### **Changing Credential Blanks**

Since there is an error in the scripture references on the present Credential Blank, and since it is a known fact that only a small number of the delegates to District or Annual Conference read the cited scripture references before signing the credential, we, the members of the First Church of Roanoke, Virginia, petition Annual Conference through the District Conference of the First District of Virginia, to have the scripture references omitted or correct the error and omit the words in section 4, "have carefully read the scriptures cited in the above declaration and," making the section read, "As a delegate to the above-named Conference, I promise prayerfully to consider," etc.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of Conference: Decided to amend the Credential Blank by omitting the words in section 4: "I have carefully read the scripture cited in the above declaration," and making the section read, "As a delegate to the above named Conference, I promise prayerfully to consider with open mind and teachable spirit, all matters presented, and to act by voice and vote in good faith for the best interests of the church, that she may continue to be the ground and pillar of the truth" (1 Thess. 5: 17; Rom. 14: 22, 23).

### **Petition for Special Day of Prayer**

The Ardenheim church in special council hereby requests the District Meeting of Middle Pennsylvania to ask the General Conference to pass the following:

1. We earnestly petition our General Conference to formulate a suitable petition to the President of the United States requesting him to appoint and proclaim a special day for the people of this land, either in private or in assemblies, to engage in humiliation, confession, fasting, prayer and supplication to the God of nations, urging that we confess our sins—personal and national—humiliate our hearts, praying for the forgiveness of our sins, and the averting of the calamities now upon us and



threatening us and our country; praying that crime and wrong may be detected and corrected, that we not only confess our sins but forsake them; praying that the sanctity of law and right may be upheld and that society and righteous government and protection and guaranty of property and person and life may obtain; that lawful industries may again become co-operative, that men may have honorable and remunerative employment and opportunity to earn their bread in honest labor and honorable sweat: praying that wisdom and integrity and discernment and conscience and guidance from God may be vouchsafed to the men who stand as leaders and arbiters in dealing with the momentous problems of state—in the legislative, judicial and executive departments of our nation, as servants of the most high God and servitors of the people; praying that our nation may still be a nation whose God is Jehovah; that the people may proceed in the enjoyment of peace and prosperity and live for the glory of God.

2. If such general or national appointment should not be made, this General Conference is requested to arrange for such a function in our own church, and the officers of the meeting be authorized to appoint the day and make the call, urging all congregations and members to lay aside all other causes whatsoever and unite in carrying out these provisions as the Holy Spirit may suggest. And so we shall ever pray.

Unanimously passed by the church and sent to District Meeting.

Passed by District Meeting and sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer of Conference: The General Conference receives this petition and asks the General Ministerial Board to arrange for such a day of fasting and praying among the churches of the Brethren.

### **Bethany Biblical Seminary and General Ministerial Board Ex-officio Members**

Inasmuch as the work of the General Ministerial Board is so closely related to the Bethany Biblical Seminary in providing an efficient ministry for the church, the Council of Boards asks Annual Conference of 1933 to decide that the chairman of the General Ministerial Board be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors and also a member of the Executive Committee of Bethany Biblical Seminary; and further, that the president of the seminary be an ex-officio member of the General Ministerial Board.

Answer of Conference: Request granted.

Note: This decision repealed. See Minutes of 1940.

### **Annual Conference Budget for 1934-35**

1. Church Service
  - a. Mission Board .....\$ 17,000.00
  - b. Board of Christian Education ..... 19,000.00

c. Ministerial Board .....	5,900.00
d. Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	25,500.00
e. General Education Board .....	1,500.00
f. Council of Boards .....	7,758.00
g. Ministerial Relief .....	10,000.00
h. American Bible Society .....	400.00
2. Missions (Benevolences) .....	187,942.00
Total .....	\$275,000.00

Note: This budget is presented to Conference with the suggestion that the Council of Boards have the privilege of adjusting the same in the light of future developments.

Answer of Conference: Budget approved and request granted.

#### 1933-34 Conference Budget Readjustment

	Adopted	Adjusted
1. Church Service		
a. Mission Board .....	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 15,500.00
b. Board of Christian Education .....	19,500.00	16,500.00
c. Ministerial Board .....	5,500.00	4,500.00
d. Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	25,000.00	25,000.00
e. General Education Board .....	1,500.00	750.00
f. Council of Boards .....	7,000.00	6,500.00
g. Ministerial Relief .....	10,000.00	10,000.00
h. American Bible Society .....	500.00	250.00
2. Missions (Benevolences) .....	188,000.00	196,000.00
Total .....	\$275,000.00	\$275,000.00

Answer of Conference: We accept the adjustment made.

#### The Moderator's Year of Service

Since there has been a question as to who is Moderator of Conference between two Annual Conferences, Standing Committee asks Conference to rule that the Moderator-Elect shall begin his year of service by presiding at the first session of the Standing Committee of the year following his election, except that he shall be on the Program Committee during the year preceding his term of service.

Answer of Conference: Request granted.

#### Publicity Work of Committee on Resolutions

Standing Committee recommends that the Committee on Resolutions be authorized to prepare and distribute Conference news items to the press.

Answer of Conference: Recommendation approved.

**Standing Committee****PLAN FOR***Query, 1921*

We, the Larned church, petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting of Southwestern Kansas and Southeastern Colorado, to decide that no person shall serve on Standing Committee oftener than one time in five years.

Answer of Annual Conference.—Referred to a committee to study the question fully and report in one year.

Committee: H. C. Early, Galen B. Royer, A. C. Wieand.

The committee appointed by Conference of 1921 reported plans to Conference of 1922, but was asked to make a further study. The same committee reported progress to Conference of 1923. Their final report follows:

*Report of Committee, 1924*

Your committee on plan for Standing Committee submits the following report:

**I. Representation**

1. State Districts, having under 3,000 members, shall be entitled to one delegate each.
2. State Districts, having from 3,000 to 6,000 members, shall be entitled to two delegates each.
3. State Districts, having 6,000 members, or more, shall be entitled to three delegates each.
4. The foreign Districts shall be entitled to representation according to the foregoing scale.
5. Only elders may serve on Standing Committee.

**II. Term of Service**

1. Members of Standing Committee may be elected to serve twice in five years, but not oftener, and not more than two years in succession. The reckoning time is to begin with the election of delegates to the Annual Conference of 1925.

**III. Officers**

1. The Moderator shall be elected annually by Standing Committee, with the approval of Conference, one year previous to the time he shall serve, who shall preside over Standing Committee and the Conference.
  - (1) The Moderator may be chosen from within or without Standing Committee.
  - (2) The Moderator shall not serve oftener than one year in three.
  - (3) The Moderator may be elected as regular delegate on Standing



Committee. If, however, he serves only as Moderator he shall have no vote.

(4) If the Moderator should become disqualified for service between dates of election and service, then Standing Committee, upon assembling, shall elect a Moderator.

2. The Secretary shall be elected by Standing Committee, with the approval of Conference, for a term of three years, and may succeed himself.

(1) The Secretary shall have no vote in Standing Committee or the Conference, except when serving as a delegate.

(2) The Secretary shall keep a correct and complete record of the proceedings of Conference, and he shall be the custodian of all official papers of the Conference.

(3) The Secretary's term of service shall begin with his election.

3. Other officers of Conference shall be elected as heretofore.

#### IV. Expenses

1. Each State District shall bear the expense of its delegates, except the foreign Districts, whose expenses shall be paid as at present.

2. When the Moderator or Secretary does not serve as a delegate, his expense shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Conference.

Committee: H. C. Early, A. C. Wieand, G. B. Royer.

Answer of Conference: Report adopted.

#### FUNCTION OF

##### *Query, 1930*

1. Inasmuch as the work of the Standing Committee has been somewhat modified by the gradual expansion of general church Boards; and, inasmuch as the duties of members of the Standing Committee have never been concisely stated; and, inasmuch as there is a feeling that members of the Standing Committee should be charged with more definite responsibility within the Districts which they represent, we, the Bridgewater church, petition the Annual Conference of 1930, through District Conference of the Second District of Virginia, to appoint a committee of three to study the problem, define the duties and responsibilities of members of the Standing Committee, to prepare a clear and concise statement of the place and function of the Standing Committee in the organization and work of the church, and to bring a report to the Annual Conference of 1931.

Passed to Annual Conference.

2. The District of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin asks Annual Conference to allow Standing Committee, since it is such a representative body, to originate and bring business to the Business Session.



Answer: Annual Conference grants the request, but since such business may not always be ready for the Booklet, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to have such business printed for the delegates before it is presented to the Business Session. All decisions conflicting with this rule are hereby repealed.

Answer of Conference to these two queries: We appoint a committee of five to report to next Conference.

Committee: Otho Winger, J. W. Lear, Edward Frantz, A. C. Wieand, D. W. Kurtz.

#### *Report of Committee, 1931*

Your committee submits its report as follows:

##### 1. Duties of the Standing Committee—

(a) The Standing Committee shall appoint the officers of the Annual Conference and members of all Boards and Committees authorized by Annual Conference.

(b) Shall receive all the material for Annual Conference and decide the order of presentation.

(c) Shall place answers to all queries not answered by the Districts from which they come. The expression "Passed and sent to Annual Meeting" shall not be interpreted as an answer to a query.

(d) Shall consider and determine action on matters of appeal for committees to churches.

(e) Shall receive and review all reports to Conference prepared by the General Boards and Committees.

(f) Matters deemed of vital importance to the Brotherhood though not coming through Districts or General Boards may be presented by Standing Committee to the Conference.

(g) A brief report of the conditions in the Districts shall be given to Standing Committee by a delegate from the District and a report of the work of Standing Committee shall be given before the elders of the District and of the Annual Conference to District Meeting.

(h) The Standing Committee is a supervisory body and interested in the work of administration in the entire Brotherhood, therefore, any irregularity or indifference to duty in Districts and churches or any nonfeasance by officials thereof shall receive attention by Standing Committee and the Committee shall attempt to correct such conditions through the organization of District elders.

2. Members of Standing Committee may be elected to serve twice in five years, but not oftener.

Committee: Otho Winger, J. W. Lear, Edward Frantz, A. C. Wieand, D. W. Kurtz.

Answer: We adopt this report and repeal all former decisions in conflict with the same.

## POOLING EXPENSES

### *Query, 1933*

We, the District Mission Board, through the District Meeting of Western Canada, petition Annual Conference that the expenses of the members of the Standing Committee delegates be pooled.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of Conference: The General Conference realizes the financial difficulty that the smaller and more isolated Districts have in sending Standing Committee delegates to Annual Meeting. The Conference sympathizes with these Districts in this and other problems which they have, but since the holding of the Conference in the different zones somewhat meets this difficulty, we do not see our way clear to change the present ruling.

### **Location of the 1934 Conference**

Requests for the Conference of 1934 came from Southern California, from Eastern Colorado and from Middle Iowa. The Conference was granted to the Western Zone.

## 1934, Ames, Iowa

### **Changes for Committee of Arrangements**

#### *Query, 1932*

The Sabetha church petitions District Conference of 1931, that, owing to the increasing difficulty of financing the locating and caring for our Annual Conferences, especially in some zones where the committees are large and widely scattered, the District Meeting of the Northeastern District of Kansas petition the Annual Conference of 1932 to authorize a change in the plan of financing, the locating and caring for future Conferences, and the appointing of locating committees. The following plan is suggested: A Committee of Arrangements, composed of three members, shall be appointed by Annual Conference for each zone that is recognized by Conference. (If it would seem to be advisable, only delegates from the respective zones in question would be entitled to a vote on the appointment of the committee members for that zone.) This committee of three would be charged with the locating and caring for the Conference when it was awarded to their zone. The expense of these committees would be paid by the Annual Conference treasurer. This expense money to be provided for through a registration fee of fifty (50) cents for each delegate to Conference and Standing Committee; said fee to be paid at the time of the presentation of the delegate's credentials.

Motion to amend the paper so as to read that the registration fee be one dollar instead of fifty cents for each delegate.

Motion with the amendment passed and sent to Annual Conference.

Answer of Conference: Committed to a committee of three to report to Conference of 1933.

Committee: H. K. Ober, J. J. Yoder, Chas. D. Bonsack.

#### *Report of Committee, 1933*

Owing to the extraordinary financial condition which the Brotherhood has been experiencing, with the rest of the world, your committee has felt it unwise to consider or offer anything to the Conference involving any increased cost of maintaining it.

We therefore ask for more time for the adjustment of conditions and the privilege of reporting to the Conference next year.

H. K. Ober, J. J. Yoder, Chas. D. Bonsack.

Answer of Conference: Request granted.

#### *Report of Committee, 1934*

We, your committee, have studied all phases of this question and it is our conviction that a fair method to meet the expenses incidental to entertaining the Conference would be to charge an enrollment fee for all who attend the sessions of the Conference, but the difficulty of collecting such fee seems almost insurmountable in a Conference of general attendance. We therefore recommend that in the present disturbed financial situation, and with an increasing number of churches failing to represent at Conference, not to charge a fee to attending delegates to Conference at this time.

Committee: H. K. Ober, J. J. Yoder, Chas. D. Bonsack.

Answer of Conference: Passed.

#### **Conference Budget for 1935-36**

This budget is presented to Conference with the suggestion that the Council of Boards have the privilege of adjusting the same in the light of future developments:

General Mission Board .....	\$ 15,000
Board of Christian Education .....	19,000
General Ministerial Board .....	5,900
General Education Board .....	1,500
Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	25,500
Ministerial Relief .....	12,500
Council of Boards .....	7,600
American Bible Society .....	400
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Service Agencies .....	87,400

Missions .....	187,600
Total of Budget .....	\$275,000

Council of Boards.

Answer of Conference: Budget approved.

### **Protesting Against Military Taxes**

#### *Query, 1933*

We, the Eglon congregation, petition Annual Conference through District Meeting of the First District of West Virginia to tell us how we can best protest against paying taxes for military purposes.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of Conference: Referred to the Board of Christian Education for answer in 1934.

#### *Report of Board, 1934*

I. All lawful taxes should be paid. As Christians we differentiate between taxes for constructive and taxes for destructive purposes. Because war is unchristian, taxes for military and naval purposes should be protested.

Not less than 70% out of our taxes paid to the federal government goes directly or indirectly for military and naval purposes. Some of these federal taxes are: income taxes, estate taxes, federal stamp taxes, and the federal tax on gasoline, etc.

#### II. Ways of protesting against taxes for military and naval purposes.

1. Paste a small sticker on your income tax returns and other payments made to the federal government, which reads as follows: "That portion of this tax devoted to armaments and war preparedness is paid under protest." The Board of Christian Education will furnish these stickers.

2. Write a letter once a year to your congressman protesting against the appropriation of funds for military and naval purposes.

3. Protest personally when paying federal taxes, such as the federal gasoline tax.

4. Protest through resolutions from local churches, district and Annual Conferences.

III. We favor a further study of this problem with the purpose of helping to develop a sound theory of taxation.

Board of Christian Education.

Answer of Conference: Passed.



**Financial Policy***Query, 1933*

The Council of Boards asks that the Annual Conference of 1933 appoint a committee of five brethren to make a comprehensive study of the financial policy of the church with special reference to securing and managing annuity and endowment funds held by our general boards, colleges, local churches, district boards and other church-related institutions.

Answer of Conference: Adopted. Committee: C. M. Culp, J. S. Noffsinger, J. M. Fogelsanger, L. D. Ikenberry, J. J. Yoder.

*Report of Committee, 1934*

We, your committee appointed by the Conference of 1933 to make a comprehensive study of the financial policy of the church with special reference to securing and managing annuity and endowment funds held by our general boards, colleges and other church related institutions, submit the following report:

1. We ask Conference to refer to the Council of Boards, through its staff, to organize at Elgin a plan of continuous publicity and sending of educational material to our Brotherhood for the purpose of security annuity and endowment funds and bequests by wills. This shall include the maintaining of mailing lists, available for all our church related institutions, of individuals who should be interested in contributing in a large way to our various church institutions.

2. We recommend that a Finance Advisory Commission be created which shall consist of the treasurers or other financial representative appointed by each church related Board and institution holding permanent funds amounting to \$100,000 or more. It shall be the duty of this Commission to meet at least annually for the purpose of devising methods of safeguarding and managing the annuity and endowment funds held by said organizations. This Commission shall have the same status as that of the General Boards of the church and shall be required to report to Conference annually.

Committee: C. M. Culp, J. S. Noffsinger, J. M. Fogelsanger, L. D. Ikenberry, J. J. Yoder.

Answer of Conference: Passed.

Note: Because the Commission provided for above failed to act for two successive years the above action was repealed in 1936.

**International Goodwill and Neutral Relief***Request of 1932*

We, the Young People's Congress of the B.Y.P.D. assembled at Anderson, Ind., petition the 1932 Annual Conference, through the Board of Religious Education, as follows:

1. To build up a church program of international goodwill.
2. To investigate and provide a program of service in co-operation with the Friends or otherwise in establishing special arrangements for neutral relief work in time of war or periods of national crises.
3. To authorize the Board of Religious Education to make the necessary investigation and build up the programs needed for the above action.

The above request by the B.Y.P.D. was carefully considered by the Board of Religious Education, approved and passed to the Conference through Standing Committee.

Answer of Conference: Request granted.

*Report of Board, 1934, as Amended by Conference*

1. War can be prevented if all who love peace give their best to that end. Then no relief plan would be necessary.
2. If a major war is allowed to occur, in a mobilized nation neutrality is not really possible.
3. We can not co-operate with any nation in war, either directly in military or naval service, or indirectly in service in organizations under military command. "Above all the nations is humanity." We can give relief to sufferers on both sides of any conflict, particularly to women and children. We dare not cloud our testimony against war.
4. In our efforts to oppose war we must guard carefully our love for our country. We may be classed as enemies of our country, but we must give no valid reason for being so classed. Where we can not co-operate, we must try to compensate.
5. Because we cannot know ahead of time the conditions of any possible war in the future, we can not build an adequate relief plan now. Any plan we might outline would have to be changed in an actual emergency. However, if we are ever to have an adequate relief plan we must begin building it now.
6. We want to develop in our church the state of mind which, if written large, will prevent war and bring peace; then if our efforts should fail to prevent the outbreak of hostilities, we shall have a background of experience out of which to construct an adequate neutral relief plan. This will involve—
  - a. A commitment to the way of life that makes war impossible.
  - b. A knowledge of the essential New Testament teaching on the subject; also of our national history on the peace and war question, and of the major problems in the modern world.
  - c. A plan for passing on the truths that we have learned to those who have not heard.
  - d. A program of training in subsistence homestead projects, areas of

conflict such as strikes, and other conditions of civilian suffering and need. These might include classes in dietetics for mothers, milk and vegetables for under-nourished children, guidance of the leisure time for under-privileged boys and girls, and extra self-denial on our part to build up a relief chest.

A program of this nature will tend to develop the emotional stability that will hold us steady under whatever strains may come.

Board of Christian Education.

Answer of Conference: Report adopted.

### **Location of the 1935 Conference**

Conference for 1935 was granted to the Central Zone.

## **1935, Winona Lake, Indiana**

### **A Restatement Concerning War and Peace**

Conscious of the growing danger of war in the world today and feeling the need of a reaffirmation of our stand on peace and war, we, the Peace Commission of the Church of the Brethren, through the Board of Christian Education, recommend to the Annual Conference of 1935 the adoption of the following statement, which statement shall be submitted to the proper officials of our federal government and to the leaders of other churches in America:

As a people we have opposed wars at all times throughout our entire history of over two hundred twenty-five years and we have stood with equal consistency for constructive peace principles in all relationships of life. We hate war because we love peace, our way of life at all times. It has been the practice of the church through the years to require of applicants for membership a pledge not to engage in war nor learn the art of war. In our constant attempt to be truly devoted to the highest interests of our country, we have recognized that our supreme allegiance is to God, and we believe that recognition commits us to the highest standard of Christian citizenship by which we can serve our country and our God. We believe a Christian regard for other peoples increases rather than decreases our respect for and our attachment to our own nation.

We believe that all war is sin; that it is wrong for Christians to support or to engage in it; and that war is incompatible with the spirit, example and teachings of Jesus. We believe that war is not inevitable. Those beliefs are not based upon a peculiar peace doctrine of our own; they arise from our application of Christian standards to all human relations, whether individual, group, class, or national. To settle con-



licts in any of these relationships by war is not efficient, not constructive, not permanent, and certainly not Christian. We believe that nonviolence, motivated by goodwill, is more powerful than the sword, making possible the survival of both parties, while warfare insures the ultimate destruction of both. War is a far greater calamity, to victor and vanquished alike, than would be the hazards incidental to a renunciation of war by a nation and the settlement of all their disputes by peaceful means.

We believe that armaments for nations, like weapons for private defense, do not bring security, but rather intensify the dangers of conflict, as present world conditions tragically testify. We do not believe in the expenditure of our substance for those instruments which endanger our peace and safety. We believe in the only real preparedness for our nation—goodwill, and the agencies through which it may be expressed and maintained.

We believe the whole war system is futile, always leaving more problems than it settles, if it settles any. Today, only a few years after winning the "war to end war," the United States is in the midst of the greatest of war preparation, and our country shares with other nations the general feeling of insecurity throughout the world. We believe that true democracy, "government of the people, by the people and for the people," is consistent with the spirit and principles of Christianity. But the fruit of war is not democracy; war destroys democracy as the prevalence of dictatorships of the communist, fascist, or other varieties, testifies. We cannot "make the world safe for democracy" by war.

Consequently, we are committed to such interests as a program of peace education for all people; the development and support of the necessary international institutions to settle the disputes between nations by means other than war; the promotion of better relations between conflicting social or economic groups within our country; and honesty and a spirit of public service in our government.

Likewise we are committed in our active opposition to all such interests as appropriations for military purposes; the manufacture of munitions of war either for private profit or by the government; the teaching of the doctrines of military preparedness which are so unsound and so unchristian; voluntary or compulsory military training in our secondary schools and colleges; the challenge of our so-called "war games" to other nations; the enactment of laws conscripting men or property for military purposes; neutrality laws that permit our citizens to profit from the trade of belligerents and draw us into wars; and the secret influence of munitions makers and military officials in conferences called to reduce or abolish armaments.

Therefore, as Christian citizens, we are devoted in principle and in action to the furtherance of every effort by our own nation to promote



peace in the world, and we are equally devoted in our opposition to those forces within or without our country which make for war, for class struggle, for civil disorder, or for personal conflict.

Answer of Conference: We adopt this as our position on war and peace. (This statement was further made part III of the Resolutions.)

### **New Plan of Conference Budget Division**

The Council of Boards after studying seriously the problem of financing the general work of the church wishes to present a plan proposed by the General Mission Board.

The General Mission Board recognizes the large amount of work that the Annual Conference has assigned to the other General Boards of the Church and Bethany Biblical Seminary. The present plan of distributing money has failed to provide sufficient funds for them to carry on their work as they feel it should be done. Since there is more or less uncertainty in our present methods, and some dissatisfaction, the General Mission Board proposes the following:

"That the Council of Boards in session shall determine a reasonable Budget needed for missions and the other general work assigned to the Boards. That the payment of the Mission Board agents and secretaries and the raising of the Conference Budget shall be included in the budget of the General Mission Board. That the General Mission Board shall remit to the several church agencies the amount agreed upon by the Council of Boards as approved by the Conference and that the other general funds be used for missions at home and abroad.

"In making this proposal the General Mission Board recognizes the importance and need of all the work of the church and desires to see it succeed. However, we believe that the missionary command and plan of our Lord to his church is still the great first work of the church, and we shall need and pray for the united effort of all the Boards to maintain and enlarge this work by the Church of the Brethren."

The proposal of the General Mission Board does not anticipate any change in the actual procedure of building, approving and raising of the Conference Budget.

We recommend that the item included in the budget for the American Bible Society be transferred to the Board of Christian Education and that this Board be authorized to increase its budget to include this amount.

That it be understood that in case of emergency, budgets may be referred back to the Council of Boards in order to protect properly the General Mission Board under this new arrangement.

This plan when approved by Standing Committee and the general Conference shall be in operation this year, retroactive to March 1, 1935.

Answer of Standing Committee: Approved.

Answer of Conference: Adopted.

**Revised Conference Budget for Year Ending Feb. 29, 1936**

The Council of Boards presented the following revised Budget:

General Mission Board .....	\$215,500
Missionary and Ministerial Relief .....	10,000
Board of Christian Education .....	17,250
General Ministerial Board .....	5,250
Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	25,500
General Education Board .....	1,500
	<hr/>
	\$275,000

Answer of Conference: Adopted.

**Conference Budget for Year Ending Feb. 28, 1937**

The Council of Boards presented the following as the revised Budget:

General Mission Board .....	\$211,500
Board of Christian Education .....	19,250
Missionary and Ministerial Relief .....	12,000
Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	25,500
General Ministerial Board .....	5,250
General Education Board .....	1,500
	<hr/>
	\$275,000

Answer of Conference: Adopted.

**The Deaconship***Queries, 1931*

1. The First Church of the Brethren, South Bend, Ind., meeting in regular council Aug. 6, 1930, petitions Annual Conference, through the District Meeting of Northern Indiana, meeting in regular session, at Napanee, Ind., Aug. 28, 1930, to grant the right to the local church to select from the deacon body six or more who shall serve for a period of years, two being elected each year, as the active officials with the ministers and elders. This request is made upon the basis of the fact that many churches have a great many deacons and find it difficult to get them together, and that such a plan would make for efficiency on the one hand and deepened interest on the other hand.

Passed to Annual Conference.

2. We, the members of the Central church of Roanoke, Va., petition Annual Conference at Colorado Springs, Colo., in June of 1931, through the District Conference of the First District of Virginia, at Troutville, Va., April, 1931, to put the deaconship on the basis of a definite period

of service (that is, to be elected for one year, or any other term of office); and that deaconesses be called to their office on the same basis, but independently of the deacons (that is, any qualified woman shall be eligible to this office regardless of being married or unmarried).

Answer of District Meeting: We pass the paper to Annual Meeting and recommend that the whole deacon question be referred to a committee for restudy.

Answer to these two queries: We recommend a committee of five to study the deacon question. Committee: C. S. Ikenberry, H. K. Ober, Rufus Bucher, Galen K. Walker, J. Clyde Forney.

#### *Report of Committee, 1933*

We, your committee, after carefully and prayerfully studying the sentiment of the brotherhood, which was ascertained by questionnaires being sent to all parts of the brotherhood, and after a careful study of the New Testament Scriptures, together with a comparative study of the history of the church from the Apostolic Age to the present, submit the following report:

1. That the deacon be elected for life or so long as he is faithful and diligent in the duties of his office, and that he be installed by the laying on of hands.
2. That since sisters are used in the ministry, the local church be given the privilege, if it so desires, to elect sisters to the office of deaconess, and that they be installed in the same manner and for the same term of service as the deacons.
3. That each congregation be granted the privilege to decide when deacons and deaconesses move into other congregations, than those in which they were elected, whether such are to be received with their office.
4. That the local church be granted the privilege to elect Boards of Administration with terms of office of three years, to which boards may be assigned the specific administrative duties which they are to perform.
5. That brethren and sisters be given the privilege to volunteer for the office of deacon and deaconess on the same basis and in the same manner as volunteer ministers are accepted with a period of probation of not more than one year.

Committee: C. S. Ikenberry, H. K. Ober, Galen K. Walker, Rufus Bucher, J. Clyde Forney.

Answer of Conference: Recommitted to report to Conference of 1934.

#### *Report of Committee, 1934*

We, your committee, after carefully and prayerfully studying the sentiment of the brotherhood, which was ascertained by questionnaires



being sent to all parts of the Brotherhood, and after a careful study of the New Testament scriptures, together with a comparative study of the history of the church from the apostolic age to the present, as well as the sentiment evidenced on the floor of the Conference last year, submit the following:

1. That the deacon be elected for life or as long as he is faithful, diligent and efficient in the duties of his office, and that he be installed with the laying on of hands. Acts 6: 1-7. Revised Minutes, page 87, 1919.

2. That the local churches which have a large number of deacons be granted the privilege of electing Boards of Administration from the deacon body with terms of office of three years, to which Boards may be assigned the specific administrative duties which they are to perform.

3. That since sisters are used in the ministry, the local church be given the privilege, if it is so desired, to elect sisters other than wives of deacons to the office of deaconess, and that they be installed in the same manner and for the same term of service as the deacons. Rom. 16: 1-4.

Committee: C. S. Ikenberry, R. P. Bucher, Galen K. Walker, H. K. Ober, J. Clyde Forney (not present).

Answer of Conference: Recommended to the same committee.

### *Final Report, 1935*

#### Qualifications and Duties

The qualifications and duties are fully stated in the report of 1919, Revised Minutes, pages 87, 88, and the Pastor's Manual, 1923 edition.

#### Installation

At the time of election, a deacon shall be received according to the order of service as given in the report of 1919, Revised Minutes, pages 88, 89, and the Pastor's Manual. When the church decides to install him, it shall be done by a consecration prayer and the laying on of hands.

#### Election and Term of Office

That we practice the same manner of electing deacons and their wives as prescribed in our present Minutes, see Revised Minutes, article 7, 1919, page 70.

That the term of office of a deacon be for life or until such a time as he disqualifies himself by lack of diligence, faithfulness, loyalty, morality, or efficiency. For procedure in such cases see Revised Minutes, 1894, article 1, page 90. Since the office is sacred and important, a period of not less than one to three years shall be required in which to prove himself faithful in service (1 Tim. 3: 10). He shall, then, be installed at such a time as the local church may decide.



Committee: C. S. Ikenberry, J. Clyde Forney, H. K. Ober, R. P. Bucher, Galen K. Walker.

Answer of Conference: Report adopted.

#### **Location of the 1936 Conference**

The answer to seven requests for the next meeting granted Conference to the Eastern Zone.

### **1936, Hershey, Pennsylvania**

#### **Committee to Study Home Missions**

*Query, 1935*

In view of the fact that practically all of our state districts maintain home mission programs administered through district mission boards, and since the General Mission Board maintains a department of home missions headed by a home mission secretary; and since the work of both these departments is essentially of the same type and character, therefore, we, the Tinker Creek church, in order to eliminate duplication, effect greater economy in the expenditure of mission funds, and promote greater efficiency in the administration of our home mission work, request the Annual Conference of 1935, through the district conference of the First District of Virginia, to appoint a Conference Committee to make a careful study of this problem and bring to the Conference of 1936 a report on plan and policy for the administration of our home mission program.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of Conference: We recommend a committee of five to study the problem and report to a later Conference. This committee to consist of one each nominated by the General Ministerial Board, the Board of Christian Education, and the General Mission Board and two by Conference; all to be approved by Conference.

Committee: Paul K. Brandt, M. Clyde Horst, M. R. Zigler, C. E. Davis, Chas. D. Bonsack.

#### *Report of Committee, 1936*

After a careful study your committee finds that the question submitted is vitally related to the problem of the management and control of our total church program. We believe that there is efficiency in a more central direction of the work of Home Missions but we are also convinced that there is safety and wisdom in the district boards' sharing in the counsel and responsibility of the work since they are closer to it.

We want to conserve both values in the program and, therefore, recommend the following:

1. That we continue our present plan of district organization for Home Mission work and urge all our districts to support their programs liberally.

2. That our districts, in harmony with Annual Meeting Minutes of 1925, seriously consider combining into larger units where economy and efficiency would be thus served.

3. That each district consider the possibility of unifying its work through a Council of Boards or a Board of Administration whose duty it would be to study the needs of the district and to plan accordingly.

4. That we continue our present general department of Home Missions and the general Home Missions Budget and encourage its generous support. We approve the present working policy whereby the General Boards co-operate in making a careful study of the needs, personnel and program in the field of Home Missions before grants are made.

5. That we encourage the development of a regional advisory council in each of the five administrative regions of the brotherhood for the correlation of the entire general and district programs of the church, including Home Missions. Members of the General Boards living in the region, together with a representative from each district in the region, should compose this council with the regional member of the General Ministerial Board as the convener. Members of the Elgin staff should be available to these regional councils for any help they may be able to give. The work of these councils shall be advisory, rather than mandatory, and in harmony with the policies of the General Boards as authorized by the General Conference.

Committee: Paul K. Brandt, M. Clyde Horst, M. R. Zigler, C. E. Davis, Chas. D. Bonsack.

Answer: Report adopted.

### **Later Date for Conference**

#### *Query, 1935*

We, the elders of the District of Oklahoma, Panhandle of Texas and New Mexico, assembled at the district meeting at Clovis to consider the change of the time of the year for Annual Meeting for the following reasons:

1. Whereas, harvest is on at the time Annual Meeting convenes in our latitude, making it impossible for many to attend;

2. Whereas, coming before our crops are harvested, it decreases our giving as we have little or no money at that time;

3. Whereas, we have investigated and found to our satisfaction that if the meeting were changed from the present date to sometime the lat-

ter part of August it would not discommode other latitudes and would benefit many;

Therefore, we suggest the change of date from the present date of meeting to sometime in late August.

Carried.

Answer of Conference: Conference appoints a committee of three to study the question and report in 1936.

Committee: M. R. Zigler, C. S. Ikenberry, Galen K. Walker.

#### *Report of Committee, 1936*

We recommend no change.

Committee: M. R. Zigler, Galen K. Walker, C. S. Ikenberry.

Answer: Report adopted.

#### **Report on Ministerial Relief and Retirement**

The General Mission and General Ministerial Boards have made a long and careful study of the problems of ministerial relief and retirement as referred to them by the Conference of 1930. The report which we now submit has been modified again and again in an effort to discover a practical system of ministerial relief.

We offer the following recommendations:

First: That the church carry in the Conference Budget an item of not less than \$10,000.00 to be known as "The Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund," which shall supplant the present Ministerial and Missionary Relief Fund, provided there are no legal complications. This fund shall be available for appropriations to ministers and missionaries on account of old age, disability, death, or emergencies. This fund shall be jointly administered by the General Mission and General Ministerial Boards in co-operation with district and local church boards. Grants shall be made according to need, with full consideration being given to faithful and self-sacrificing service to the church. It is our opinion that this item of the Conference Budget should be increased to \$20,000.00 as soon as possible, with a view of building up a reasonable reserve for the purposes of the fund. The church should encourage special gifts and bequests to this fund.

Second: That the Conference encourage among the ministers, missionaries, teachers, secretaries, editors, and others employed by the church the establishment of a co-operative movement in which the emergencies of life may be shared by the group in the burden-sharing spirit of the New Testament church and in harmony with the practice of brotherhood and neighborliness which has prevailed among the Brethren. It is our opinion that such a movement would be a more practical form of relief than the establishment of a large endowment fund for this purpose and is



more nearly in harmony with the ideal and message of the Church of the Brethren.

Third: That the Conference encourage the practice of economy and thrift among our ministers, and the development of a system of adequate support of the ministry by the church. We should organize pastorates into charges of sufficient financial strength to provide a ministerial support somewhat commensurate with that of other persons in the community of equal influence and responsibility.

The Conference should encourage the younger men of the ministry to provide for themselves out of personal savings a retirement income through existing agencies. We have investigated the Presbyterian Ministers Fund of Philadelphia. The facilities of this fund are available to our ministers and we desire to approve the fund as a substantial and reliable concern offering its advantages and benefits exclusively to ministers at a reasonable rate.

Fourth: Recognizing the limitation of the plan herein proposed and realizing that it will require many years to perfect a plan which is adequate and well adapted to our peculiar needs, we recommend that the Conference authorize the General Mission and General Ministerial Boards to continue their study of this problem and to promote the plan outlined in this report until some more permanent and more satisfactory system can be developed.

General Mission and General Ministerial Boards.

Answer: Report adopted.

### **Voting Status of Inactive Members**

#### *Query, 1936*

We, the Kearney church, assembled in council, petition Annual Conference through district conference to define the voting status of inactive members.

Passed to Annual Conference by the delegate body.

Answer: If a member is inactive according to Query C, Minutes of 1931, he should not vote.

### **Conference for Coast Zone Every Seven Years**

1. The District Meeting of Southern California and Arizona assembled at Long Beach, Sept. 2, 1935, requests the Annual Conference of 1936 to reconsider that part of our Conference decision of 1904 which grants the Annual Conference to the Coast District "as often as wisdom, gained by experience and otherwise, may direct" and decide as nearly as possible to hold the Annual Conference in the Coast District every seventh year.

Passed.



2. The Moscow church assembled in council requests District Meeting of Idaho and Western Montana assembled in district conference at Nampa, Idaho, to ask Annual Conference of 1936 to reconsider that part of our conference decision of 1904 which grants Conference to the Coast Zone "as often as wisdom gained by experience and otherwise may direct" and decide "as nearly as possible to hold the Annual Conference in the Coast Zone every seventh year."

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer: We grant the Annual Conference to the Coast Zone once in seven years.

### **Training for First Aid**

We, the Board of Christian Education, ask Annual Conference through the District Meeting of Eastern Maryland to establish a program for the training of our youth for "First Aid" or emergency service.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer: Referred to the Board of Christian Education.

### **Conference Budget for 1937-38**

The Council of Boards presents the following budget for 1937-38:

General Mission Board .....	\$213,500.00
Board of Christian Education .....	19,250.00
General Ministerial Board .....	5,250.00
General Education Board .....	1,500.00
Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	25,500.00
Ministerial and Missionary Relief .....	10,000.00

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\$275,000.00

Answer of Conference: Budget approved.

### **Index to Minutes Since 1922**

Standing Committee asks Conference to authorize the Secretary to prepare and print an index to the Minutes since 1922.

Answer: Request granted.

### **Location of the 1937 Conference**

Conference for 1937 was granted to the Coast Zone.

## **1937, Nampa, Idaho**

### **Ministerial Placement and Policy**

#### *Report of General Ministerial Board, 1936*

(Because of its length the 1935 Recommendation is not printed here.)

The General Ministerial Board, in co-operation with the Pastors' Association, has given prolonged and intensive study to the problem of ministerial placement. We recognize that a more effective plan for

locating and transferring pastors must be developed in order to avoid discord and often complete disruption of congregations. Our study has led to the conviction that a restatement of our policy and procedure on this question is necessary. We, therefore, submit the following recommendations which, when adopted by the Conference, shall supersede former decisions on this question.

### I. General Recommendations

1. Ministerial Tenure. We recommend that the church be committed to the policy of the long pastorate believing that it is productive of the greatest good both to the congregation and the ministry. Wisdom should be exercised by churches in calling pastors and by pastors in accepting calls in order to avoid misfits. Pastoral changes should be made with consideration and harmony.

2. The Pastoral Term. We recommend that the pastoral term be of indefinite duration and that the right to terminate a pastorate by resignation be conceded to the ministry. There should be reasonable notice of a desire to terminate a pastorate either by the minister or the congregation. We suggest an advance notice of six months unless a shorter time is mutually agreeable.

3. Ministerial Placement and Transfer. The official agency of the church for the placement and transfer of pastors shall be the General Ministerial Board acting in co-operation with the District Ministerial Boards and the Pastoral Board of the local church.

4. Extending a Pastoral Call. We recommend that the local church create a Pastoral Board representative of the working forces of the congregation, or designate an existing board similarly constituted, which shall be the official medium through which the congregation investigates and negotiates with ministers nominated or recommended for pastoral service in the local church. When such boards have agreed upon a minister for the pastorate and the terms of his employment have been determined, they should report the same to the church council in some such form as the following: "We, the Pastoral Board of the..... congregation, having investigated thoroughly the qualifications of Brother.....and having reached a satisfactory agreement with him as to the terms of his employment, recommend that he be called to the pastorate of this church, his services to begin on.....  
....., 19....

"Signed .....

"Clerk of the Pastoral Board."

Church councils for the consideration of such reports should be publicly announced at least ten days in advance and should be called for the

purpose of accepting or rejecting the report of the Pastoral Board. Voting in such councils should be by ballot and it should require at least three-fourths of the votes cast to adopt the report. The adoption of such reports constitutes a pastoral call.

5. **Terminating a Pastorate.** The minister may for sufficient reason and of his own initiative terminate his pastorate by resignation. The Pastoral Board of the congregation, or the board designated to represent the church in such matters, may for sufficient cause suggest to the pastor the advisability of a pastoral change. In such cases the pastor should have reasonable opportunity for consultation with the district and General Ministerial Boards and for proceeding to resign with the advice and counsel of these boards. If the pastor does not see fit to resign then the Pastoral Board or the corresponding board should have the authority, if they feel that the best interests of the work demand it, to call for a vote of the congregation on the question of retaining the present pastor. Councils for considering this question should be called in the same manner as councils for extending a pastoral call and the vote should be taken by ballot and require a three-fourths majority of the votes cast to retain the pastor.

6. **The Elder-Pastor Relationship.** The elder of the congregation should be considered its official head and should preside at all church councils, especially when the pastoral relationship is under consideration. He should be regarded as the chief counselor and adviser of the pastor in all of his work. The pastor should be considered the executive head of the church, the active leader in its program and activities, its spiritual counselor and "shepherd of the flock." Where conditions seem to demand it the church may elect the pastor as elder, but in such cases a member of the District Ministerial Board should preside in all council meetings when the pastoral relationship is under consideration.

7. **The Pastoral Year.** We recommend that the pastoral year begin September 1.

## II. Procedure in Vacancies and Appointments

1. **Pastoral Nominations.** Congregations desiring to call a pastor or change pastors, and ministers desiring to enter pastoral service, transfer to a different field, or consider a call which has been received from a new field, should notify the General Ministerial Board, Elgin, Illinois, and the District Ministerial Board concerned. Upon receipt of such notices the General Board should be prepared to submit nominations as promptly as is consistent with a careful analysis of the needs of the church and the qualifications of available candidates. One or more nominations should be submitted at a time and this procedure continued until a minister acceptable to both the district and local boards has been discovered. It shall be understood that the Pastoral Board of the local church has the



right, provided it shall first confer with the District and General Ministerial Boards, to submit as a nomination the name of any particular minister in whom the congregation is especially interested.

2. Adjustment of Pastoral Difficulties. The General Ministerial Board with the concurrence of the District Ministerial Board may make, or cause to be made, investigations of congregations or pastors when conditions warrant such investigations. A congregation, or a minority of the congregation, or the pastor, or the District Ministerial Board, may call upon the General Board for such service where the welfare of a congregation is jeopardized by division and discord. In all such cases when the work of the General Ministerial Board is not satisfactory to the local church the case is automatically appealed to the elders of the district. This body may refer the case to the Standing Committee, if in its judgment the situation demands such procedure.

The ideals embodied in our "Code of Ethics for Ministers and Congregations" should be respected at all times.

### III. Duties of Ministerial Boards

1. Local Pastoral Boards. We recommend that the Pastoral Board of the local church, or such boards as may be designated to serve in this capacity, be composed of representatives of the working forces of the congregation. At least the following groups should be represented: the board of deacons, the Sunday-school, the board of trustees, the finance committee, the men's organization, the women's organization, the young people's department and such other groups as the church may consider advisable. This board may create a smaller executive committee which shall be directly responsible to the board itself. It shall be understood that the Pastoral Board as a whole is responsible to the congregation and that pastoral calls and transfers are subject to the action of the church council.

The duties of the Pastoral Board shall be as follows:

a. To represent the local church in the matter of pastoral relationships. It shall receive nominations for pastoral service, investigate candidates, carry on negotiations with nominees, consider pastoral changes, receive resignations, agree upon terms of service and make recommendations to the church council.

b. To represent the church in supplying the pulpit when necessary and in securing evangelists, lecturers, special instructors and such other service as has to do with the pulpit service of the congregation.

c. To serve as an advisory board to the pastor.

d. To arrange for proper reception and installation of new pastors.

e. To educate the congregation in the ethics of pastoral relationships



and to maintain the ideals set forth in our code of ethics for congregations and ministers.

2. Duties of District Ministerial Boards.

a. To co-operate with the Pastoral Board of the local church and the General Ministerial Board in the matter of pastoral calls and transfers.

b. To discover ministerial talent among the young people of the district and lead them to consider the ministry of the church as their life work in order that the church may have an adequate ministerial supply.

c. To license and install candidates into the ministry with the approval of the local congregation.

d. To ordain or arrange for the ordination of ministers to the eldership upon the approval of the district and the local congregation.

e. To encourage and assist the churches of the district in providing adequate pastoral care for their membership.

f. To co-operate with pastoral boards in the proper installation of pastors, in the development and maintenance of harmonious relationships between pastors and churches, and in the education of churches in the ideals set forth in our code of ethics.

g. To keep in touch with the churches of the district in encouraging evangelism and support of the program of the general brotherhood.

h. To investigate and pass upon applications for ministerial relief from their respective districts.

i. To co-operate with churches in adjusting difficulties which may arise affecting ministers or pastors.

j. To co-operate with the General Ministerial Board in the annual survey of the churches, in keeping on file proper records for the district, and in such other work as may strengthen the ministry of the church.

k. To analyze the annual reports and submit to the ministers, pastors and boards of the district data with reference to the trend, problems and progress of the congregations of the district.

3. Duties of the General Ministerial Board.

a. To supervise pastoral calls and transfers and outline plans of procedure for the guidance of congregations and ministers in regard to pastoral changes, and serve the church as a nominating agent for pastoral vacancies.

b. To maintain an office and a general secretary at Elgin through which the general work of the board shall be done.

c. To make an annual survey of the churches and keep a careful file of data concerning congregations and ministers, and to provide Yearbook material concerning the ministry and the churches of the brotherhood.

d. To enrich the ministry of the church through conferences and in-

stitutes and to maintain proper spiritual and educational standards for those who would qualify for the ministry of the church.

e. To visit the districts of the regions in order to present the program of the brotherhood and especially to inspire and encourage the ministerial and other district boards in their work.

f. To build up within each region strong and effective church programs and give every possible assistance to all regional officers and committees in their work.

g. To pass upon applications for ministerial relief in co-operation with the General Mission Board.

h. To co-operate with the General Education Board, Bethany Biblical Seminary and our colleges, in giving every possible assistance to promising young men during their years of preparation for the ministry of the church.

i. To co-operate with the General Mission Board in the administration of the home mission program.

j. To co-operate with the Board of Christian Education in all problems relating to the ministry and the local church which are common to these boards.

k. To investigate pastoral maladjustments and make settlement of such problems in the most harmonious manner possible.

Answer: Passed.

#### *Conference Interprets "Recommendations," 1937*

We, the District Ministerial Board of Eastern Pennsylvania, by request of the Elders' Meeting of our district, hereby ask Annual Conference of 1937, through District Meeting of Eastern Pennsylvania, to interpret the action of Annual Conference of 1936 in the adoption of the Report of the General Ministerial Board on Ministerial Placement and Policy especially on the meaning of "General Recommendations" as contained on pages ten and eleven pertaining to the voting by ballot by councils in the retention or the election of pastors and requiring three-fourths of the number of votes cast to adopt a report. Some councils in all sincerity interpret "Recommendations" as being optional and this creates confusion in the brotherhood.—District Ministerial Board.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer: We do not regard the "recommendations" of 1936 on "Ministerial Placement and Policy" as mandatory, but we do consider the report as representative of the best thought of the church on this question, and therefore it should be universally accepted. We consider unity in the calling and retaining of pastors as essential to the progress and growth of our congregations, hence the wisdom and desirability of a vote of three-fourths majority as recommended. We think it contrary to the spirit of the brotherhood for a minority of a congregation to take advantage of this recommendation to block or interfere with the progress

of the church as represented in the will and judgment of the majority. We commend section 13 of our "Ethical Code for Ministers and Churches" to our churches in relation to this problem.

### Church Discipline

#### *Query, 1935*

Inasmuch as church discipline, even for gross moral offenses, has so nearly disappeared among Protestant bodies, and since the practice of our own church in this regard has become lax and our method of procedure vague and uncertain, the Hagerstown church petitions Annual Conference of 1935, through the district conference of the Middle District of Maryland, to appoint a Conference committee of three to make a careful study of this problem and bring to the Conference a restatement of the policy and procedure of the Church of the Brethren on this question.

Passed to Annual Conference by district meeting of Middle Maryland.

Answer of Conference: We favor a committee of five to study the problem and report to Conference of 1936. Committee: Floyd E. Mallott, Otho Winger, J. Perry Prather, D. W. Kurtz, A. B. Miller.

#### *Report of Committee, 1937*

##### A Summary of Principles

The New Testament gives abundant evidence for church discipline. There are two reasons for church discipline: first, to save the wrongdoer (2 Thess. 3: 11-15; 1 Thess. 5: 14; 2 Cor. 2: 5-11); and second, to maintain the moral standards of the church (1 Cor. 5).

Who should be disciplined? All persons come short of perfection; hence all need discipline. However, some discipline themselves, and need not be disciplined by the church. There are two kinds of sins: (1) Sins of nonspirituality, the shortcoming of the saints, who live moral lives but not perfect lives. For these we have the regular services and the ordinances of the church for the "edification of the saints." (2) There are also sins of immorality, the acts that fall below the standard of decency or morality, or the code of respectability that is necessary for the Christian. Persons who disgrace themselves and the church by doing the immoral or unchristian act should be disciplined.

##### Basic Law of Church Government

Jesus, in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, gives to us the basic law for living with others in the kingdom of grace. We reaffirm our acceptance of this principle to guide us in our relationships with each other. If this direction is followed there will be little difficulty between members of the body of Christ. If members refuse to follow this direction, the church is directed to proceed with disciplinary measures (Matt. 18: 17).



### Methods of Procedure

The responsibility for guiding church life rests primarily on the elders and pastors (2 Tim. 4:1-5). Over a period of years the character of church life will be largely determined by the example and teaching of the official body and by their methods of church government. The faithful minister can not be negligent or unconcerned about the sins of the members of the church (Acts 20: 26-32).

The duty of helping maintain a high standard of conduct rests upon every member of the church. Every member should be faithful to the teaching of Matthew 18 and to the teaching of the Word concerning proper conduct on the part of Christians. If any member discovers cases of sin in the church, if it is possible for him to convert such a sinner, that member has done a good deed (James 5:19, 20). If he feels that the matter is too great for him individually, let him, after much prayer, tell it to the elder or pastor of the church or both.

Let pastors and elders receive seriously all information and complaints about the conduct and order in the churches under their care, and proceed with prayer and the direction of the Holy Spirit. Tactful, prayerful procedure on the part of pastors and elders will be able to correct most minor offenses. In cases of grave offenses, or where the pastor or elder fails to convert the erring member, they should counsel the official body and the church, and, with the direction of the Holy Spirit, work for the good of the individual members and for the purity of the church.

Let the elders take mutual counsel in the elders' meetings of the district, and there mature any necessary policies in regard to the conduct and practices of the churches under their charge. If any congregations of the district become out of sympathy with the churches of the district or with the brotherhood, the elders of the district possess authority to deal with such congregations.

We recommend a careful study of the history of the church and of our Annual Meeting Minutes as safe counsels for shaping the religious life of the church. We urge a faithful study of the Scriptures, that we may know the will of God concerning the conduct of the individual and the church.

### Conclusion

In conclusion we would impress upon the minds of our members that the great remedy for the evils of worldliness is to be absorbed in the great work that Christ has left us to do (Matt. 28:19, 20). Our greatest need in our brotherhood is for a revival of spiritual life and a dedication of life to the kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33).

F. E. Mallott, Secretary of Committee.

Answer: Report adopted as amended.



**Conference Budget for 1938-39**

In its meeting on Sept. 30, 1936, the Council of Boards voted to recommend to Annual Conference of 1937 the following budget for the year 1938-39:

General Mission Board .....	\$208,000
Board of Christian Education .....	19,250
General Ministerial Board .....	6,750
General Education Board .....	1,500
Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	25,500
Ministerial and Missionary Relief .....	12,000
Student Loan .....	2,000
	<hr/>
	\$275,000

Conference added \$2,000 for Ministerial Relief to the 1937-38 Budget.

**Expense of Yearbook**

On Sept. 30, 1936, the Council of Boards voted to request of Annual Conference through Standing Committee that the Treasurer of Annual Conference pay the cost of the pages in the Yearbook which give district information, namely, the Directory of Churches.

Answer: Request granted.

**Sower Monument**

Inasmuch as the grave of Christopher Sower is in the bounds of the Mingo congregation, and has a poor crumbling marker, we the Mingo church, feeling that steps should be taken to have the present marker replaced by a more imposing one, giving every congregation in the brotherhood an opportunity to share in the project, ask District Meeting of Eastern Pennsylvania to appoint a committee of three to formulate and execute plans for this project within the present year.

Answer by District Meeting: We decide that Annual Conference of 1937 appoint a Committee to carry out the request in the query.

Answer: We authorize the placing of a simple and suitable marker at the grave of Christopher Sower and appoint a committee of three to supervise the work and receive funds for this purpose. Should there be a surplus of funds it shall be disposed of by the next Annual Conference.

Committee: Joseph N. Cassel, H. S. Replogle, C. M. Boaz.

(It was suggested that the committee might have as an associated member, Mrs. James Fry of 3612 Chester Ave., Philadelphia, Pa., who is a descendant of Bro. Sower.)

**Statement to the Oxford Conference**

We, the Church of the Brethren, an historic peace church in the United States of America, rejoice in the opportunity to join with the

Mennonites and the Friends in bringing our greetings to this great conference. For this opportunity we are sincerely grateful. Our deep concern in the present world crisis emboldens us to address you.

For nearly 237 years we have opposed all wars, often at great cost and sacrifice. Through experience, the teachings of the Holy Scriptures and the voice of conscience has come to us the conviction that all war is sin. This conviction is an integral part of our Christian faith and our refusal to participate in wars is a normal part of our Christian practice.

While constantly devoted to our own country, we have always recognized that our supreme allegiance is to God and to all mankind. This recognition commits us to the highest standard of Christian citizenship in the service of our country and our God. A Christian regard for other peoples increases rather than decreases our respect for and our attachment to our own land.

We share the feeling of many Christians today that the church is facing a momentous crisis. Racial, economic, and political tensions threaten us with another world-wide war. Too often the answer to these tensions has been more guns. But the peoples of the world cannot maintain for long a spiritual unity if beside our cathedral spires we build mountains of hate—our ever-increasing armaments. We feel that the church in many of our lands is facing two alternatives. The church may renounce war, oppose the prostitution of the spiritual life of the church to militarist purposes in the state, and endure the persecution consequent upon that position; or, the church may furnish the spiritual dynamic of the warring state and receive the staunch support of the same, but lose her own soul.

Our sincere hope is that out of this great conference of Christian leaders will come the spiritual impetus necessary for definite steps in the leadership of the church toward world peace. The problem is not one of good intentions alone; it is one of changing the spirit and character of international policies, of race relations, and of economic systems. To the solution of this great problem of Christendom today, we dedicate ourselves and stand ready to join hands with our fellow Christians everywhere in bringing peace among men.

Paul H. Bowman, Moderator; A. C. Baugher, Reader; J. E. Miller, Secretary.

### **Fraternal Relations**

#### *Query, 1925*

Whereas, the Church of the Brethren numbering 108,953 members, and the Brethren Church numbering 24,260, were formerly one church body in union and fellowship; and,

Whereas, by reason of differences, which at that time were irreconcilable, the body, the church, was divided into two separate factions, which

have since the division been maintaining two separate organizations; and,

Whereas, those differences which caused the division in the church have been so far diminished, reconciled and forgotten that now it is not uncommon for members of one church to identify themselves with the other church with no requirements other than they had in the church which they left, and vice versa; and,

Whereas, it is often the case, that officials of the one body or church often identify themselves with the other body or church with no other qualifications for holding office required of them than they had in the church from which they came, and vice versa; and,

Whereas, in recent years the spirit of goodwill, the spirit of Christian forbearance, the spirit of tolerance, the spirit of unity and co-operation, is being more and more fostered and manifested between the two organizations or churches; and,

Whereas, the doctrines of faith and practice and the principles of church polity of the two churches are so nearly identical, and the purposes and policies and aims of the two churches are so nearly identical, and the religious, social and economic interests of the two churches are so nearly identical; and,

Whereas, to unite the forces of leadership and religious influence and the financial strength and interests of the two churches would be beneficial, economical and efficient, in that it would eliminate much duplicated church work, encourage united effort in promulgating the Gospel of salvation and encourage a spirit of unity in the bond of peace, thus bringing about a larger and richer fellowship among Christian brethren and effecting a stronger church organization and co-operation; now, therefore,

We, the Church of the Brethren, of Nampa, Idaho, petition Annual Conference, through District Conference, to appoint a committee of five representative brethren on fraternal relations between the Church of the Brethren and the Brethren Church, for the purpose of uniting the two churches into one grand organization, and that said committee be instructed to confer with a similar committee that may be appointed by the Annual Conference of the Brethren Church on fraternal relations between the two churches and report their findings, and also any recommendations they may have on the matter of fraternal relations between the two churches, and that Annual Conference authorize its clerk to correspond with the clerk of the Annual Conference of the Brethren Church and notify him that such a committee has been appointed by Annual Conference, with a desire and for the purpose of reuniting the Church of the Brethren and the Brethren into one organization.

Passed unanimously by the Nampa church at regular council April 30, 1924.



Answer of District Meeting: Passed to Annual Meeting.

(b) Believing that there are local congregations and perhaps entire denominations of those who hold a faith similar to our own with which we could mutually unite our forces and interests in the work of the Lord, we, the Moxham congregation, through District Meeting of Western Pennsylvania, ask Annual Conference to create a permanent committee to be known as the Committee on Church Affiliation.

This committee shall be composed of three faithful elders who shall be elected for a term of three years, except the initial committee, one of whom shall be elected for one year and one for two years.

The duty of this committee shall be:

To co-operate with and advise local congregations in securing the affiliation of others of similar faith.

To confer with and propose a basis of affiliation and union with denominational bodies of similar faith and practice and report the same to Conference for its consideration.

In pursuance of these duties this committee shall safeguard the Biblical principles and doctrines as understood and practiced by the Church of the Brethren.

The expense of this committee shall be met by the congregations served or by the Conference treasurer as the committee shall decide.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer: Seeing that "there is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph. 4: 4-6); also that Jesus prayed earnestly to his Father that his disciples "may be one, even as he and the Father are one" (John 17: 21); also that "the body is one . . . so also is Christ" (1 Cor. 12: 12); and also "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4: 3), we pledge ourselves to these teachings and doctrines on the unity of Christian believers. Therefore be it resolved,

(1) That a Christian attitude be maintained toward all evangelical denominations and that friendly relations be cultivated.

(2) That all sincerely seeking fellowship with the Church of the Brethren be welcomed and received in the regular way.

#### *Query, 1929*

1. Whereas, the Church of the Brethren has historically espoused the whole gospel for the whole world; and,

Whereas, it was the Master's prayer for his followers that "they may all be one"; and,

Whereas, we are especially committed to the principle of brotherhood;



Therefore, we, the Bethel church, hereby petition Annual Conference, through District Conference, to appoint a permanent Church Unity Commission to study this problem, to confer with representatives of other kindred Christian bodies, and each year to report its findings at Annual Conference.

Note: It is suggested that the Commission consist of three members; one from the ministry, one from the laity, and one from the young people; that the first terms of office be three, four and five years respectively, thereafter five years; that new members be appointed by Standing Committee in the year in which vacancy occurs.

Answer by Conference: 1. In John 17: 20-23 Jesus prayed that his apostles and all future believers might be *one with himself and the Father*.

2. This *spiritual unity with God* is the true basis of unity among believers, and real Christian unity can be fostered only on such a basis.

3. Therefore the Church of the Brethren wishes to declare itself in favor of this method of promoting union among Christians.

4. And since the most precious and practically vital part of Christian unity is that within the denomination itself, we believe that present conditions in the Brotherhood call for the use of this method of promoting Christian unity rather than for the appointment of a church unity commission.

#### *Queries, 1931*

1. Since greetings and felicitations are sometimes exchanged between the various divisions of the Brethren people at the time of their Annual Conferences; and, since such exchanges of courtesy tend to foster the spirit of Christian fellowship, we, the First Church of Roanoke, petition Annual Meeting through the District Conference of the First District of Virginia to instruct the Annual Conference Program Committee to invite other branches of the church to send an official representative to our Annual Conference and to provide a place on the Conference program for the presentation and acceptance of such expressions of friendship and goodwill. We further request that the moderator of our Annual Conference, with the concurrence of Standing Committee when possible, be authorized to appoint a fraternal representative to represent us at conferences of other branches of the church if such opportunities should at any time be presented.

2. Since there are a number of centers throughout the Brotherhood in which there are congregations of two or more of the different branches of Brethren people; and, since there is in most of these centers not sufficient strength to maintain strong and effective churches of all these branches; and, since there is little or no justification for such duplication of religious effort; therefore, we, the Hagerstown church, petition the

Annual Conference of 1931, through the District Conference of the Middle District of Maryland, to encourage and authorize General and District Boards and local congregations to enter into comity agreement where it is mutually satisfactory with any other branch of Brethren people in order to avoid competition and duplication among denominations so nearly alike in doctrine and practice.

Answer of Conference: These two queries are referred to a committee of five for study to report next year.

Committee: I. W. Taylor, D. W. Kurtz, A. B. Miller, H. L. Hartsough, M. R. Zigler.

#### *Report of Committee, 1932*

Your committee recommends:

1. That the Annual Conference authorize the Conference Program Committee to invite other bodies of Brethren people to send representatives to our Annual Conference and to provide a place on the Conference program for the presentation and acceptance of expressions of friendship and goodwill. The Program Committee shall also be authorized to appoint representatives to convey our felicitations and goodwill to the conferences of other branches of the church at such times as seem feasible.

2. That the Annual Conference authorize and encourage the Ministerial and Home Mission Secretary, the regional representatives of the General Ministerial Board, District Boards and local congregations to study the problem of comity and co-operation with other branches of the Brethren people where conditions justify it and where it is mutually agreeable; and to refer their findings to the General Ministerial Board for approval. The General Ministerial Board may submit these problems to the Standing Committee for advice.

Committee: I. W. Taylor, D. W. Kurtz, A. B. Miller, H. L. Hartsough, M. R. Zigler.

Answer of Conference: Passed.

#### *Report of Committee, 1934*

Your committee on comity and fraternal relations is endeavoring to promote at every opportunity the spirit of goodwill, common understanding, and sympathy between our two bodies. We are studying the problem of our relationships carefully and, we hope, constructively. Our work as a committee has brought us into a pleasant and blessed fellowship. We have discovered situations and problems which are significant in the life of our two bodies, and we desire to submit the following report:

## I. Our Findings

The committee has made a factual survey of our two bodies and submits a few items from that study:

	1906	1916	1926	1934
Church of the Brethren, membership	76,547	105,102	128,392	154,169
Brethren Church, membership	17,042	24,060	26,026	27,836
Church of Brethren, congregations	815	997	1,030	1,030
Brethren Church, congregations	202	201	174	164
Total combined membership	93,589	129,162	154,418	182,005
Total combined congregations	1,017	1,198	1,204	1,195
Church of Brethren, ministers, 1933				2,726
Brethren Church, ministers, 1933				195
Church of Brethren, value of church property, 1933				\$9,018,385.00
Brethren Church, value of church property, 1933				2,302,736.00
Church of Brethren, value of college assets, 1933				5,927,000.00
Brethren Church, value of college assets, 1933				1,188,883.00

Our survey shows that there are about 124 communities throughout the United States in which are located churches representing both bodies. If, in the 102 of these communities in which we were able to discover the number of members in each group, the smaller group were to combine with the larger in a program of comity, it would mean that the Church of the Brethren would transfer 6,073 members and the Brethren Church, 9,856 members. Thus the Church of the Brethren would lose 6,073 and gain 9,856. The Brethren Church would lose 9,856 members and gain 6,073. The Church of the Brethren would have the advantage in this transfer to the extent of 2,783 members.

Your committee also finds that in a number of communities scattered throughout the brotherhood, local churches are combining—sometimes into a federated church, and again into congregations with definite alignment with one or the other of our national bodies. This results in varying methods of procedure and will mean ultimate loss to both groups.

## II. Recommendations With Reference to Comity in Local Communities

Inasmuch as the movement of consolidation is definitely advancing in some local congregations, the committee feels that in fairness to both bodies some guidance should be offered to these communities by the Annual Conferences of each group, and we, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following principles of comity:

1. That our Conferences authorize and encourage the merging of congregations in communities where there are groups representing both denominations and where either one group or the other, or both, cannot grow and prosper separately. It is the view of the committee that such mergers should be effected by mutual agreement and be approved by some authority representing each Conference in order to avoid unnecessary disadvantages to either group.



2. That the Conferences authorize and encourage the organization of co-operative churches in communities where there is a sufficient number of members belonging to both groups to maintain a working church, but where neither group alone is able to support an organization.

3. That the Conferences authorize and encourage fellowship in the love feast and communion service, and the exchange of letters of transfer in order to conserve better our isolated members to the Brethren faith.

4. That the Conferences encourage co-operative evangelism between our two groups where this is possible, in order that through our combined effort and strength we may be instrumental in winning some to Christ.

5. That our Conferences authorize a study of our publication needs and interests with a view of possible co-ordination and economy.

6. That the Conferences authorize a joint survey of our non-resident membership and the development of a program through our Committee on Fraternal Relations for the nurture and conservation of these scattered groups of Brethren people.

7. That each Conference provide the necessary machinery for carrying forward the above program, in harmony with its own plan of appointments and organization.

### III. The Problem of a Reunited Brotherhood

Your committee finds that there are many of our beloved brethren and sisters in both groups praying earnestly for a reuniting of our Brotherhood. This problem was discussed by the committee at length. It is our conviction that the conditions which led to our separation in the early eighties have in a large measure disappeared; that the purposes and practices of our two bodies are fundamentally the same; that our message of peace, love, temperance, simplicity, and a whole gospel is the common message of our common heritage; that our common loyalty to the Scriptures as the inspired Word of God and our love for Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, our only Redeemer, Lord and Master, in reality bind our people into an inseparable union of faith; and since it is the will of our Lord that his disciples be one as he and the Father are one (John 17:21), and seeing that "there is one body, and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above, and through all, and in you all" (Eph. 4:4-6), our people should pledge themselves to Christ-likeness in all things, to sound doctrine, and to the unity of Christian believers.

We, therefore, urge that our Conferences go on record as favoring the reuniting of our two bodies into one beloved Brotherhood, if and when the barriers and difficulties to such union which may now exist have been adjusted to the mutual satisfaction of both bodies. If this be

the will of our people, we recommend that the Conference of 1934 appoint a permanent committee, representing the various interests of each group, to consider the possible basis of such a union. We suggest that this be a committee of twenty—ten appointed by each Conference.

Signed: Charles A. Bame, Chairman; Paul H. Bowman, Secretary; M. J. Brougher, H. L. Hartsough, J. F. Locke, George W. Rench, H. H. Rowsey, Claude Studebaker, M. R. Zigler.

Answer of Conference: We approve of this report. The General Ministerial Board shall be a part of this committee of ten, and the General Mission Board, the Brethren Publishing House, the General Education Board, the Board of Christian Education, and Bethany Biblical Seminary shall each appoint one member to be approved by Conference.

Committee: H. L. Hartsough, Paul H. Bowman, S. J. Miller, M. J. Brougher, W. H. Yoder, J. J. Yoder, R. E. Arnold, Otho Winger, C. S. Ikenberry, J. W. Lear.

### *Report of Committee, 1936*

Your Committee on Fraternal Relations has made a careful study of the problems, program and relationship of the two Brethren bodies which we represent. For the purposes of this study we created four commissions as follows: a Commission on Doctrine and Message, a Commission on Education and Publications, a Commission on Ordinances and Government, and a Commission on Co-operation. These commissions were composed of six men each and have rendered faithful service. On the basis of their reports and studies we desire to submit the following to our Annual Conferences of 1936:

#### First: Our Findings

1. The brethren who have served on these commissions have found a joyous fellowship in their work together and a remarkable unity of spirit and opinion.
2. We find that the problems and conditions which led to division in 1882 have now largely disappeared.
3. We find that statements which have been issued by certain groups in both branches of the church in regard to doctrine and message represent an essential unity of faith and teaching. It is our opinion that these statements could be readily harmonized.
4. We find that the practice of our congregations in regard to the ordinances or symbols of the Christian church is almost identical in all essential particulars. The differences between our bodies are no greater than those which exist within each group.
5. We find that there is no duplication of work between us on foreign mission fields, and almost none in our program of education and in our camp and training conference work.

6. We find that co-operation in local church communities, in our church publications, in our mission work at home and abroad, and in the training of our ministry offers large advantages in economy and efficiency to both branches of the church.

7. We find that there are still problems in the way of union which will need to be overcome before we could give proper consideration to the problem of consolidation. We do not regard these difficulties as insurmountable. Time and forbearance will bring the needed light.

8. We find that whatever there is of rivalry and division between us is due mainly to a lack of acquaintanceship. There is much to be gained by a closer co-operation of our two bodies and there are areas of our church life where this is entirely possible.

### Second: Our Recommendations

In the light of our findings we desire to offer the following recommendations:

1. That the Conference direct the pastors and officials of local churches, where both denominations are represented and where the spirit of co-operation exists, to arrange their programs so as to eliminate duplication, rivalry and useless expense.

2. That the Conference direct the boards and committees responsible for our church publications to study the possibility of closer co-operation in the production and publication of our church literature.

3. That the Conference declare the year 1937 a year of special fellowship between our bodies and that our pastors, boards and committees be advised to plan for joint services throughout the brotherhood for the purpose of Christian fellowship and a better knowledge of our common church life.

4. That our Conferences consider holding in the near future at least one Annual Conference at the same time and place in order that the convention features of our Conference programs may be held jointly. The business sessions would naturally have to separate.

5. We recommend that the Conference consider holding a joint Sower celebration in 1938, commemorating the bi-centennial of the founding of the Sower Printing Press at Germantown. It is our thought that such a celebration could be planned in connection with our Annual Conference programs and that the program committees should be charged with the responsibility of making the arrangements if the suggestion is approved.

6. It is our conviction that each Conference should continue its Committee on Fraternal Relations indefinitely, and authorize the joint committee to furnish guidance and direction to any co-operative movements which may develop among our people in order to conserve and protect the general interests of both denominations.



Committee: Chas. A. Bame, W. S. Bell, L. S. Bauman, A. J. McClain, C. A. Ashman, W. C. Benshoff, W. E. Ronk, Claude Studebaker, I. K. Bowman, R. R. Haun, H. L. Hartsough, Otho Winger, R. E. Arnold, J. J. Yoder, J. W. Lear, S. J. Miller, W. H. Yoder, C. S. Ikenberry, P. H. Bowman, M. J. Brougher.

Answer: Report adopted and committee continued.

#### *Report of Committee, 1937*

There have been no significant developments in our fraternal relationships with the Progressive Brethren Church during the year. We recommend that we reaffirm the provisions of our Conference report of 1936, assure the Brethren Church of our spirit of brotherliness and co-operation, and continue our committee for the sake of such guidance as may be needed in this important area of our church life.

Answer: Report adopted. Fraternal Relations Committee.

#### **Sower Bicentennial**

Whereas the resolutions passed by the Annual Conference of 1934 contained the following statement:

"The year 1938 will be the two-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Sower printing press at Germantown. We recommend that the church observe in that year a bicentennial celebration in recognition of the beginning of our publishing interests in America and other activities of the church which were sponsored by the Sowers. We suggest that the Conference of that year be held as near the mother church at Germantown as is possible and that a Committee on Plans and Program for that celebration be appointed by this Conference. We further recommend that all Brethren bodies be invited to participate in this celebration."

Therefore, we the District Ministerial Board of Eastern Pennsylvania, by request, ask Annual Conference of 1937 through the District Meeting of Eastern Pennsylvania to grant the Annual Conference of 1938 to the Eastern Zone for the purpose of making possible the features as suggested in the above resolution.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of Conference: The Conference of 1938 is granted to the Western Zone. The Sower Bicentennial Memorial is referred to the Program Committee to determine the time and place.

(It was generally understood that possibly a part of the regular Conference program should recognize the work of Christopher Sower and that a special service by a smaller group might be held at or near Germantown.)

#### **Location of the 1938 Conference**

There were three requests for the 1938 Conference; it was granted to the Western Zone.

## 1938, Lawrence, Kansas

### Laying Hands on Ministers and Missionaries

*Query, 1937*

We, the Upper Conewago congregation, petition District Meeting of 1936 through Elders' Meeting of the Southern District of Pennsylvania to petition Annual Meeting as follows:

Notwithstanding the fact that the subject of the laying on of hands has been subject to considerable agitation in the past, nevertheless the church in regular council assembled Oct. 3, 1936, after a thoughtful and prayerful consideration feels that, because of the grave responsibilities resting on the ministry and missionaries, and because of the definite example set by the Apostolic church (Acts 6:6, Acts 13:3) we petition Annual Meeting to instruct the various Ministerial Boards to carry this sacred apostolic example in installing ministers and in sending out missionaries.

Paper passed to Annual Conference.

Answer: We refer this paper to the General Ministerial and General Mission Boards to report to Conference of 1938.

#### *Report of the Boards, 1938*

##### 1. The New Testament Teaching and Practice

Jesus often laid hands on the sick (Luke 13:13; Mark 6:5). The early church observed this practice as instructed by Jesus (Acts 28:8). Jesus laid his hands upon the children as he blessed them (Mark 10:13-16). The apostles laid their hands upon those who were baptized as a symbol of the enduement of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-20).

The laying on of hands was also customary in ordinations or consecrations to an office or work (1 Tim. 4:14; 5:22; 2 Tim. 1:6; Acts 6:6; 13:3).

##### 2. The Church of the Brethren Practice

In our church we have practiced the laying on of hands at baptism as a symbol of consecration and the gift of the Holy Spirit as recorded in our Minutes, Article 3, 1848, and Article 4, 1894; in the anointing service for the sick, Article 6, 1860; also in ordaining elders, Section 3, 1919 Report. In 1935 the Annual Conference decided to install deacons with "a consecration prayer and the laying on of hands."

##### 3. Recommendation

The teaching of the New Testament and the spirit of the practice of the Church of the Brethren justify the laying on of hands when brethren or sisters are installed into the ministry or sent out as missionaries.

Therefore we decide that the elders who have charge of such installa-

tions or consecration services observe, in the fear of the Lord, this New Testament symbol of the enduement of the Holy Spirit, and exhort the recipients thereof not to neglect the gift, which is given by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery (1 Tim. 4: 14).

General Ministerial Board; General Mission Board.

Answer of Conference: Paper adopted.

### **Stronger Protest Against War**

Because of the dangerous world situation of which we find ourselves a part, and because of the need for continued articulate protest against those things which would lead to war:

The University Park church through District Conference of Eastern Maryland petitions Annual Conference that (1) we reaffirm our opposition to all types of war; (2) we consecrate our influence as citizens to the removal of those conditions which are conducive to the making of war; (3) we make a broader use of all our church publications in education for the strategy of making our influence felt.

Answer of District: Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer of Conference: Inasmuch as our church publications and the Boards send forth so much excellent material on war and peace, we urge all to read and spread this material whenever and wherever they find it possible to do so.

### **Protest Against War Toys**

We, the Twin Falls Church of the Brethren, assembled in regular council as of March 21, 1938, hereby petition the District Conference of Idaho and Western Montana, convened in Twin Falls, Idaho, May 4-6, 1938, that we go on record this day, and also petition Annual Conference of 1938, to be held at Lawrence, Kans., in June, 1938, to voice urgent protest against the designing, manufacture and sale of war toys, such as guns, tanks, soldiers, etc., which exploit and violate plastic childhood, foster the planting of the seeds of hate, thus further postponing the future realization of world peace. This is largely perpetrated when the chimes ring out, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men." May we as a people suggest in the above stead, toys of goodwill and friendship, thus appealing for peace and a better understanding among the children of the world, and thus preventing the more the taking of the Christ out of Christmas.

Decision of District Meeting: We accept the paper and pass it on to Annual Conference.

Answer of Conference: We deplore the military nature of many toys now in use and refer this matter to the Board of Christian education to use its influence against it, and to instruct the Church of the Brethren in regard to this matter.



### Conference Budget for 1939-40

The Council of Boards recommends to Annual Conference of 1938 the following budget for the year 1939-40:

General Mission Board .....	\$208,000
Board of Christian Education .....	19,250
General Ministerial Board .....	6,750
General Education Board .....	1,500
Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	25,500
Ministerial and Missionary Relief .....	12,000
Student Loan .....	2,000
	<hr/>
	\$275,000

The Conference adopted the budget.

### Relief for China and Spain

That our testimony of love and peace may be made more positive and helpful in the war-torn lands of China and Spain, the Council of Boards in session at Lawrence, Kansas, recommends to the Conference that we urge our church to give this year in love and sacrifice that we may help relieve the suffering and reduce the extent of starvation that must result.

We believe a fund of \$3,000 for China and \$1,000 for Spain per month, or a total fund for the remaining fiscal year of \$30,000 or more could be provided, if we really try and make a sacrifice worthy of the need and of our Lord. This would certainly be true if the suffering were in our own land and among our own kindred.

We feel this fund should be prayerfully considered and provided without reducing our gifts to the spiritual witness of the church at home or abroad. For the love and message of the church with its fellowship and institutions was never more needed than now and these must be stimulated and increased rather than weakened.

We recommend further that the Conference authorize the Elgin staff to make such a call and arrange any necessary details that the churches may know the needs and be provided with information and methods as may be necessary to make the giving worthy of the cause and reach the suggested goal.

It would be our understanding that the amount given for relief would be kept separate from the regular budget for the present but accurate credits recorded of funds given and authority be granted to the Council of Boards at their November meeting to make any adjustments of money received that are in harmony with the donors' purpose and the needs in those or other areas as they may then exist.

If this gift will be given in sacrifice and faith, we believe indeed that we shall be blessed even as those are, to whom we minister in his name.

Council of Boards.

Answer of Conference: Approved.

### Peace Program for 1938-1939

In the light of the emerging world situation, we propose for Conference approval the following suggested plan for increasing our peace efforts:

I. Aim—to work intensively with the 16,000 or more young men of our church between ages 18-31 in order to build the conviction that will insure that (1) they will “not go to war nor learn the art of war”—even under strain; (2) they will become effective forces for peace both as Christians and as citizens of their communities.

#### II. Plans—

##### A. For Local Churches

1. An intensive eight-week study of the Christian doctrine of peace and the peace decisions of our church under the leadership of their pastor, elder, or other qualified leader. Time: September—November.

2. Each brother making a statement of his own as to what he believes he would do in case of war.

3. Each saving several dollars to be used in peace work.

4. A program of peace education in their local churches and in their communities.

5. One constructive community project to keep our testimony positive—where possible with Friends, Mennonites, and other Christian groups.

6. Giving to Chinese and Spanish relief out of sacrifice.

##### B. For Districts and Regions—to Further the Local Programs

1. Approval of this plan by district meetings at their next session.

2. Election of qualified peace workers in 34 districts (we have them in 15 districts now).

3. Providing a district peace budget on the basis of at least twenty-five cents per man (between 18 and 31).

4. Financial backing of all qualified peace workers, district and local. An active peace program will involve extra strain. To be referred to men's groups.

5. Courses on our peace doctrine in camps and colleges.

6. Co-operation with Friends and Mennonites and other Christian groups wherever possible—conferences, institutes, work camps and other activities.

### C. For the Brotherhood

1. Integration of our peace and missions work as rapidly as possible in America and on the mission fields.

2. Holding steadfast to the attitude of goodwill to all men under all strains caused by efforts to make us partisan in the conflicts between classes, nations, or philosophers.

Answer of Conference: We recommend this to our districts and churches as a suggested program.

### Home for Superannuated Ministers, Missionaries and Teachers

#### *Query, 1934*

We, the Ministerial Board of Eastern Maryland, hereby petition Annual Conference through District Conference that the General Ministerial Board be authorized to study and to report on some feasible plan for the possible utilization of one or more of our unoccupied college plants for the purpose of establishing a home for our superannuated ministers, missionaries and teachers.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of Conference: We ask the General Ministerial Board, the General Mission Board and the General Education Board to study the problem of providing for the workers referred to and report to a later Conference.

#### *Query, 1936*

We, the members of the Roanoke church, respectfully petition the District of Texas and Louisiana assembled at Rosepine, La., Aug. 17-19, 1934, to consider the advisability of tendering to the Brotherhood the Falfurrias Industrial School property for the purpose of establishing a home for our superannuated ministers, missionaries and teachers, as per query (c), page 46, 1934 Conference Booklet.

Motion carried [1935] that petition No. 3, page 6, 1934 Minutes, be passed to Annual Conference.

Answer: We refer this to the Boards as provided for in Query G, Minutes of 1934, and ask for a report in 1937.

#### *Report, 1937*

The General Boards have given careful study to the generous offer made by the District of Texas and Louisiana to use the Falfurrias Industrial School property as a home for superannuated ministers, missionaries and teachers, and report to the Conference of 1937.

1. We commend the district for its foresight in offering this property to the brotherhood and suggest that others might well do likewise in disposing of property when changing conditions lead to its disuse.

2. We do not at present see an open way to accept the property, but suggest that the district hold it for its own use and for future considera-



tion in connection with plans the General Boards are contemplating for retired ministers, missionaries and teachers.

General Ministerial Board; General Mission Board; General Education Board.

Answer: Report adopted.

#### *Report, 1938*

1. In response to the query from Eastern Maryland for 1934, we decide that the use of unoccupied college plants as a home for retired ministers and missionaries does not seem practical at this time.

2. We recommend that the Conference authorize the General Boards to develop a plan whereby small but substantial residences may be provided as homes for retired ministers and missionaries and that the General Mission Board be the receiving agency for gifts and property for this purpose. It is to be understood that plans shall be submitted to the Conference for approval before any major development is undertaken.

3. We report progress in regard to a plan of Ministerial Retirement.

General Ministerial Board; General Mission Board; General Education Board.

Answer of Conference: Report accepted and committee continued.

#### **Location of the 1939 Conference**

With three requests for the next meeting, Conference of 1939 was granted to the Central Zone.

## **1939, Anderson, Indiana**

### **Enlisting for Military Service—Members in Good Standing**

#### *Query, 1938*

We, the Albright church, hereby petition Annual Conference through District Conference to set forth the attitude of the church toward a brother who enlists with the government for military service, and that Annual Conference consider the preparation of a statement of what constitutes a member in good standing in the Church of the Brethren for use in time of emergency.

Answer: Passed by District Conference in Middle Pennsylvania.

Answer of Conference: 1. It is evident according to Annual Meeting Minutes, Art. 9, 1840 (page 204), and Art 7, 1886 (page 131), Sec. (1) that one who enlists in military service is not in full accord with the faith and practice of the general brotherhood. The attitude of the church toward such should be one of brotherly love and forbearance, endeavoring by

faithful teaching to restore him to full accord as long as he expresses desire to continue membership in the Church of the Brethren.

2. The second part of the query is referred to the General Ministerial Board for study and report next year.

#### *Report of General Ministerial Board, 1939*

The General Ministerial Board recommends that in special emergency cases persons who can give conclusive evidence of being officially in the membership of the Church of the Brethren, of having lived an exemplary Christian life consistent with Brethren principles, as having supported the cause of Christ by church attendance and gifts, may upon the affirmation of the baptismal declaration of faith be certified by the elder and clerk of the local congregation as being in good standing.

We further recommend that the Elgin staff prepare and make available a suitable certificate to be used in such cases.

General Ministerial Board.

Answer of Conference: Report of the Ministerial Board adopted.

#### **Sunday-school Lesson Texts**

We, the Bridgewater congregation, petition Annual Conference of 1939 through the district conference of the Second District of Virginia, to revoke the action of the Annual Conference of 1930 requiring that the lesson text in our Sunday-school quarterlies be printed in both the King James and American Revised versions and authorize the editors of our publications with the concurrence of the Board of Christian Education to use whatever version or versions they regard as most satisfactory.

Answer: Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of Conference: We authorize the editors of our publications to use but one version in the quarterlies, and we allow them to print either the King James Version or the American Version.

#### **Conference Budget for 1940-41**

In regular meeting the Council of Boards voted to recommend to Annual Conference of 1939 the following budget for the year 1940-41:

General Mission Board .....	\$207,000
Board of Christian Education .....	19,250
General Ministerial Board .....	6,750
General Education Board .....	1,500
Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	26,500
Ministerial and Missionary Relief .....	12,000
Student Loan .....	2,000
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	\$275,000

Answer of Conference: Budget approved.

### **Relief Funds**

The Council of Boards after consideration of relief needs recommends to the Annual Conference the following:

In the light of war tragedy throughout the world, we should continue our ministry of relief to needy ones.

The need of China is tremendous and our program (limited only by difficulties of administering relief) should be carried on. We recommend giving \$2,000 per month.

As a result of our experience and association with the American Friends Service Committee in Spain, we recommend that the churches give \$1,000 per month for continued co-operation in the work of relieving human needs.

Churches may designate money either for general relief in co-operation with the American Friends Service Committee or for China relief. Undesignated relief money will be divided two thirds for China and one third for general relief in co-operation with the American Friends Service Committee.

The foregoing arrangement is subject to revision by the Council of Boards through its relief committee according to need and possibilities of working.

Answer of Conference: Recommendations approved.

### **Report of Committee on Counsel for Conscientious Objectors**

The status of those Christian groups in the United States who object to war on the grounds of religious principle and conviction is determined in time of war crises under present laws and conditions by four considerations:

1. The Bill of Rights which guarantees to the citizens of this nation freedom of religious faith.
2. The National Defense Act which authorizes the President of the United States to deal with conscientious objectors according to his own discretion.
3. Clear and unwavering peace testimony on the part of the church which has the support of historic tradition in times of peace as well as war.
4. Settled convictions on the part of the individual members as to the wrongfulness of war and its incompatibility with the teaching and the spirit of Jesus.

The first of these considerations is the guarantee of freedom and justice on the part of our government to those who are regarded as "conscientious objectors." The Church of the Brethren is grateful for any recognition which the government has taken of our position and we pray that our government may never depart, even in times of crises, from the



principles of freedom and liberty in matters of religious faith and worship.

The third of these considerations represents the official position of the church and her program of service in regard to peace and war. The Brethren have an unbroken record on this question. We have officially declared "our conviction, as humble followers of Christ, that all war is sin." (See Conference Resolutions for 1934.) That conviction reaches back to the very beginning of our church. Brethren cannot fight and kill. We can have nothing to do with war in any form. In a national crisis involving hatred, violence, bloodshed and taking of human life, we must obey the voice of our Lord and our conscience.

The last of these considerations rests with the individual members of the church. It is fundamental that the official declarations of the church shall accurately and truly represent the faith and practice of our people. The church has the right and authority to declare her position on war and her members are under obligation to buttress such declarations with a peace mind, demonstrated in service.

The committee therefore desires:

1. To urge our pastors, teachers, and parents to use all the resources of education and spiritual emphasis at their command to build within the childhood, youth, and adults of the church a peace mind and a peace conscience, not merely as a means of avoiding difficulty in time of war crisis, but as the only road which can lead to the abolition of war and to permanent peace.
2. To urge our youth to refuse military training in high schools and colleges and to protest against the spirit of militarism in all its forms in our local communities.
3. To offer our services as a committee to any of our young people who may witness for the position of the church and of Christ on the question and the spirit of war as it is in the world today.

C. Ray Keim, Secretary.

#### **Location of the 1940 Conference**

Four districts called for the Conference of 1940 to be held in the Eastern Zone. Request granted.

## 1940, Ocean Grove, New Jersey

### Tenure of Office

#### *Query, 1939*

We, the Harrisonburg church, petition the Annual Conference of 1939, through the District Conference of the Northern District of Virginia, to decide that regular members of general boards of the church may not succeed themselves more than once on any general board.

Answer: Passed to Annual Conference with an amendment changing the query to read: "... Members of general boards of the church may not succeed themselves more than twice on any general board."

Answer of Conference: Referred to a committee of three to study the entire question of tenure, and report in 1940.

Committee: J. S. Noffsinger, J. W. Lear, Earl Bowman.

#### *Report, 1940*

We, the committee appointed by the Annual Conference of 1939 "to study the entire question of tenure" of the general boards of the church, submit the following report:

1. Tenure. The tenure of office for membership on all general boards (General Mission Board, General Ministerial Board, General Education Board, Board of Christian Education) shall be for a period of five years except the General Education Board which shall be for a period of three years as at present.

2. Qualifications. (a) All nominations for membership on general boards shall be made upon the basis of the candidate's qualifications and special fitness to perform the services required, irrespective of official position or sex. (b) It is recommended (but not required) that due consideration be given to the geographical distribution and to the special group interests of the church in making nominations for membership on all general boards.

3. Limitations. The limitations to membership on all general boards are as follows: (a) Full-time employees of boards are not eligible for membership thereon. (b) No individual may serve as an elected member on more than one general board at the same time. (c) A member may serve for not more than two consecutive terms on any one general board, but after an interim of one year such individual may be eligible for re-election.

4. All previous decisions of the Annual Conferences not in harmony with the above are hereby repealed.

Committee: J. W. Lear, J. S. Noffsinger, Earl Bowman.

Answer: Report adopted as amended. (It was understood that this should apply to the appointments of the present Conference.)

### **Brethren Co-operative Insurance**

#### *Query, 1939*

Recognizing the spirit of mutual helpfulness which characterized our church fathers, and

Believing that the Brethren today should be more brotherly in bearing one another's burdens, and

Convinced that many members who are now unable to protect themselves and loved ones against the hazards of prolonged illness and death should be assisted in this regard, and

Assured that the exorbitant profits in commercial life insurance could be saved our members,

We, the Olympia Church of the Brethren, through district meeting of the State of Washington, petition Annual Conference to provide our brotherhood with a form of co-operative life insurance consistent with Brethren principles.

Answer: Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of Conference: Referred to a committee of four for study.

Committee: Elmer M. Hersch, John M. Miller, J. E. Miller, R. L. Showalter.

#### *Report of Committee, 1940*

##### **A. Findings**

1. Our study was directed to the action taken by other denominations in this field, and we find:

a. One denomination after trying an assessment plan abandoned it and is now organizing a legal reserve company. The management will be separate and apart from the church.

b. Many denominations have pension and annuity plans which are operated for the benefit of their ministers and missionaries and their widows and dependent children. Employees of church-operated projects are also included in some plans. Such plans are not available to the lay members of the church.

##### **B. Recommendations**

1. In view of our study of such plans, we recommend that no action be taken at this time in the organization of any life insurance company to be operated by the church. The management of such a company requires full-time experienced actuaries and managers. The laws regulating insurance in the various states must be complied with, and the necessary reserves and investments are not available to guarantee the success of such a venture.



2. We commend the work of the Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund to which the budget has contributed \$12,000 each year for the past four years. Because needs are increasing, we recommend that this part of the Conference Budget be increased \$2,000 each year until the contribution reaches \$20,000 annually or until some other plan is put into operation which promises greater benefits to our ministers and missionaries.

Special attention is called to Annual Meeting Minutes of 1936 from which we quote: "It is our opinion that this item of the Conference Budget should be increased to \$20,000 as soon as possible with a view of building up a reasonable reserve for the purposes of the fund. The church should encourage special gifts and bequests to this fund.

"That the Conference encourage the practice of economy and thrift among our ministers, and the development of a system of adequate support of the ministry by the church.

"The Conference should encourage the younger men of the ministry to provide for themselves out of personal savings a retirement income through existing agencies. We have investigated the Presbyterian Ministers' Fund of Philadelphia. The facilities of this fund are available to our ministers and we desire to approve the fund as a substantial and reliable concern offering its advantages and benefits exclusively to ministers and missionaries as a reasonable rate.

"Recognizing the limitation of the plan herein proposed and realizing that it will require many years to perfect a plan which is adequate and well adapted to our peculiar needs, we recommend that the Conference authorize the General Mission and General Ministerial Boards to continue their study of this problem and to promote the plan outlined in this report until some more permanent and more satisfactory system can be developed."

Churches, boards, ministers and missionaries are urged to consider the above recommendations.

3. Before Conference approves any form of insurance, we suggest the appointment of a competent committee to study the problem fully and report to a future Conference.

Committee: E. M. Hersch, Chairman; Russell L. Showalter, Secretary; John M. Miller; J. E. Miller.

Answer: Report adopted.

#### **Fifth Conference Zone**

The 1939 district conference of Tennessee, upon the recommendation of the elders of the district, requests the Annual Conference of 1940 to establish five Annual Conference zones, corresponding to the present regions of the brotherhood, and grant the Conference to each zone in a regular five-year cycle.

Answer: Request granted. The regular order for the several zones shall be: (1) Pacific Coast Zone; (2) Southeastern Zone; (3) Western Zone; (4) Eastern Zone; (5) Central Zone.

(There were eight requests for Conference of 1941, and related subjects. Conference considered it not necessary to consider them in view of the above answer which fixes five zones and also determines the order in which each zone will have the Conference. It will no longer be necessary to ask for Conference.)

#### **Conference Budget, Revised, 1940-41**

General Mission Board .....	\$165,000.00
Board of Christian Education .....	19,250.00
General Ministerial Board .....	6,750.00
General Education Board .....	1,500.00
Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	26,500.00
Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund .....	14,000.00
Missionary Service Loan Fund .....	2,000.00
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	\$235,000.00

The revision of the budget does not mean to decrease the program of the church but rather to fix a budget goal at a figure which we can and would fully intend to meet. Conference action in adopting the proposed revision carries with it the serious responsibility of meeting our goal.

#### **Conference Budget for 1941-42**

The following budget for the year ending Feb. 28, 1942, was approved by Conference:

General Mission Board .....	\$165,000.00
Board of Christian Education .....	19,250.00
General Ministerial Board .....	6,750.00
General Education Board .....	1,500.00
Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	26,500.00
Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund .....	14,000.00
Missionary Service Loan Fund .....	2,000.00
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	\$235,000.00

#### **Recognizing the Council of Boards**

Since the National Council of Boards has become an increasingly effective agency in our general church organization and yet is without official status, the Bridgewater congregation requests the Annual Conference of 1940, through the district conference of the Second District of Virginia, to recognize the council as a part of our general church machinery and instruct it to define and report to the Annual Conference on its duties, responsibilities, relationship to other boards, and upon its plan and method of organization.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer: Conference recognizes the Council of Boards as the name of the board provided for in article A (The Boards in Joint Session), section 4, Minutes of 1923, and in article 1 (Discontinuance of Council of Promotion), section 1, Minutes of 1928.

### **National B.Y.P.D. Cabinet**

The Board of Christian Education requests Annual Conference through Standing Committee to recognize the National B.Y.P.D. Cabinet as approved by the Board of Christian Education. The personnel is: David Studebaker, Lester Young, 1942; Kurtis Naylor, Ernest Lefever, 1941; Harry K. Zeller, Jr., 1940.

Answer: We recognize the National B.Y.P.D. Cabinet and approve the nominees.

### **Peace and Relief Funds**

As recommended by the Brethren Service Committee, the Council of Boards recommends a continuation of an appeal for at least \$3,000 per month for the Peace and Relief Fund; further, that liberty be granted to the Brethren Service Committee to make adjustments within its budget to carry on the peace and relief program as the need arises in the world.

Answer: Request granted.

### **Repeal of Article L of 1933**

Standing Committee asks Conference to repeal article L, Minutes of 1933, which makes the chairman of the General Ministerial Board an ex officio member of the Board of Directors of Bethany Biblical Seminary, and the president of the Seminary an ex officio member of the General Ministerial Board.

Answer: Said article is hereby repealed.

### **Annuity Rates**

#### **UNIFORM RATES, 1923**

Since there are no uniform rates paid by the different Boards and institutions of the church to those donating funds in the consideration of payment of annuity, the General Boards of the Church, in joint session, ask the General Conference to decide that the following scale of maximum rates be effective for single annuitants: Under the age of 40, 4%; 40 to 44, 4½%; 45 to 49, 5%; 50 to 54, 5½%; 55 to 59, 6%; 60 to 64, 6½%; 65 to 69, 7%; 70 to 74, 7½%; 75 and over, 8%. In case of joint annuity, the age of the younger shall determine the rate by applying the single annuity rate scale.

Answer of Conference: We so decide.

#### **REVISED RATES, 1933**

The Council of Boards recommends that the present schedule of



annuity rates as adopted by the Calgary Conference of 1923 be revised and a new schedule of rates be approved on such current actuarial basis as is approved by the Council of Boards; so that, with investments paying an average of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per annum, the principal remaining at death would be not less than 70 per cent.

Answer of Conference: Recommendation adopted.

#### ADJUSTMENT OF RATES, 1933

The Council of Boards recommends that Annual Conference approve the reduction of annuities now being paid by various general boards, colleges and other church-related organizations to such level as may be mutually agreeable to both the organization and to the annuitant, and also more nearly the rates received on the investment backing such annuities. Such readjustments to obtain only during the current period of economic distress.

Answer of Conference: Recommendation adopted.

#### REVISED RATES, 1934

We recommend that the minute adopted by the 1933 Annual Conference, "The Council of Boards recommends that the present schedule of annuity rates as adopted by the Calgary Conference of 1923 be revised and a new schedule of rates be approved on such current actuarial basis as is approved by the Council of Boards; so that, with investments paying an average of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per annum, the principal remaining at death would be not less than 70 per cent," be rescinded.

We present the following as a revision of the 1923 plan and scale of annuity rates adopted at the Calgary Conference. At the time the donor makes an annuity gift an annuity rate is applied to such gift according to age, which shall not be increased for said gift during the lifetime of the annuitant or surviving beneficiary. The following is the scale of maximum rates to be effective for single annuitants: the age of 40 or under, \$40.00 per \$1,000.00 donated on the annuity plan; age 41, \$41.00 per \$1,000.00; thus for each year older an increase of \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 until the age of 70 or over is reached when the maximum becomes \$70.00 per \$1,000.00. In case of joint annuity, the age of the younger shall determine the rate of applying the single annuity rate scale.

Council of Boards.

Answer of Conference: Report adopted.

#### REVISED RATES, 1940

The Council of Boards presents the following as a revision of the 1934 plan and scale of annuity rates adopted at the Ames, Iowa, Conference: At the time the donor makes a gift on the annuity plan, a rate is applied to such gift according to age, which shall not be increased for

said gift during the lifetime of the annuitant or surviving beneficiary. The following is the scale of maximum rates to be effective for single annuitants: at age 40 or under, \$30 per \$1,000 donated on the annuity plan; at age 41, \$31 per \$1,000; thus for each year older an increase of \$1 per \$1,000 until the age of 80 or over is reached, when the maximum becomes \$70 per \$1,000. In case of joint annuity, the age of the younger shall determine the rate by applying the single annuity rate scale.

Answer: The rates suggested are approved.

## 1941, La Verne, California

### Committee for Bethany Hospital

#### *Query, 1938*

Because of the faith of the church in the ministry of healing, and because of the services rendered in the past by Bethany Hospital, and with a desire to conserve the resources of said institution and use them more effectively for the church:

We, the Greenville church, petition Annual Meeting of 1938 through District Meeting of Southern Ohio, to conduct a thorough investigation of Bethany Hospital and its associated Nurses' Training School, having in view the advisability of giving the institution official recognition and support.

Answer of District Meeting: Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of Conference: That the church may have full information on church hospitals and nurses' training schools, we appoint a committee of three whose duty shall be:

1. To make a study of church hospitals and nurses' training schools—their establishment, support, cost and advantages.
2. To make a study of Bethany Hospital and Nurses' Training School—cost, financial status, what it will mean for the church to support them, and the services they can render.
3. To report findings to the Conference of 1939.

Committee: L. D. Ikenberry, H. K. Ober, Elmer M. Hersch.

#### *Report of Committee, 1939*

##### Scope of Investigation

In order to secure data from which to make out a report information was gathered from the following sources:

(1) Conferences with the executive committee of Bethany Hospital, members of the board of trustees, individual members of the General Education Board, others especially interested in the hospital and nurses'

training school, and personal visits to twelve hospitals and nurses' training schools in the Chicago area and northern Indiana.

(2) Examination of reports of the American Medical Association, surveys made by others who have made a study of church hospitals and nurses' training schools, and a recent survey by questionnaire in co-operation with the General Education Board of the churches of the entire brotherhood.

(3) Inspection of buildings and equipment of Bethany Hospital and Nurses' Training School and the examination of statistical and financial records and reports of the hospital.

#### Results of Investigation

There are, in the United States, 6,166 hospitals. Of these, 332 are so-called Protestant church hospitals. There are 1,395 approved nurses' schools and 150 of them are operated in connection with Protestant church hospitals. Thirty-four have fewer than 100 beds and seven fewer than fifty beds.

In general, Protestant church hospitals have been established by gifts and bequests by individuals or groups interested in the ministry of healing, and supported mostly by fees from hospital patients, fees from students in nurses' training schools, gifts from individuals, church organizations and societies, income from endowment and donations on special hospital days in connection with general church programs.

We further find that hospital patients and students in nurses' schools come almost entirely from near-by territories. A few, for special reasons, come from different states.

Hospitals with nurses' schools having fewer than seventy-five beds or having fewer than a daily average of fifty patients are at a disadvantage in providing adequate facilities for training in order to meet requirements for graduation and passing examinations of state boards. To meet requirements it is necessary to send their students for several months to affiliated hospitals. The smaller the training school the longer the time required to take work in the affiliated hospitals. It is also noted that the tendency is for state boards to increase requirements for graduate nurses.

It is generally conceded that church training schools place more emphasis on the social and religious life than others do. They are able to give a more personal and sympathetic service than is found in many of the hospitals. The character and personality of the instructors and others in charge contribute most toward the social and religious life in all types of hospital training schools.

In making a study of Bethany Hospital and School of Nursing, we note that the hospital had its beginning in the summer of 1920. An apartment house was purchased and remodeled, providing for twelve beds. Later several more beds were added. The hospital was incorporated in the



state of Illinois and the doors were opened Dec. 31, 1920. An agreement between the officials of Bethany Hospital and the General Conference was made, and is still in force. (See Minutes of 1926.)

It soon became evident that a new and larger building was needed, and receiving encouragement from persons interested in the service of healing, the management of the hospital took steps to secure funds for a new building. The present building was constructed and furnished in 1929 and 1930 at a cost of approximately \$200,000. There was available when the building was begun \$115,000 in cash, approximately \$80,000 being subject to annuity, and \$50,000 in notes and pledges. When the building was partly finished, it was found that not all the notes and pledges were collectible, and in order to secure funds to complete the building, mortgage bonds in the amount of \$75,000 were issued and sold. The building, with the capacity of seventy-five beds, was completed (except the fourth floor), and furnished for fifty beds and was opened May 5, 1930. In October of the same year the school of nursing was organized.

The hospital was not able to meet bond interest and annuity payments as they became due; also, unpaid operating expenses accumulated. However, for the last five years operating expenses have been met by current income, but sufficient funds have not been available to meet capital fund obligations. The following financial statement is intended to present the general financial situation of the hospital. An audited financial report for 1938 not being available, this summary statement was made from the audit report for 1937. (The audit for 1938 will probably be ready by the time of Conference.)

#### Summary Financial Statement as of Dec. 31, 1937

<i>Assets</i>			
Operating assets			
Cash on hand and in bank . . . . .	\$	1,517.98	
Notes and accounts receivable ..		1,458.63	
Supplies, estimated . . . . .		1,000.00	\$ 3,976.61
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Property and equipment			
Lands . . . . .		21,317.92	
Buildings . . . . .		205,330.82	
Equipment . . . . .		31,268.65	257,917.39
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Other assets . . . . .			258.56
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Total assets . . . . .			\$262,152.56

*Liabilities and Capital Funds*

## Operating liabilities

Salaries and wages .....	\$ 9,720.08	
Accounts payable .....	14,108.78	
Notes payable .....	23,305.41	
Accrued interest .....	12,987.24	
Accrued annuities .....	22,574.46	
Taxes payable .....	905.76	\$ 83,601.73

## Mortgage bonds

Bonds, matured .....	5,200.00	
Bonds, maturities extended .....	60,600.00	65,800.00

Land purchase contract .....	7,940.18
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## Capital funds

Hospital building fund .....	54,390.80	
Nurses' home building fund .....	9,289.49	
General equipment fund .....	22,054.76	
Nurses' home equipment fund ..	360.67	86,095.72

Annuity contracts reserve .....	95,681.25
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Total .....	\$339,118.88
Less general fund deficit ...	76,966.32

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\$262,152.56

In regard to the deficit shown in the above report it should be stated that the hospital management claims to have made arrangements for settlement with most of their commercial creditors on a very low basis and have verbal agreements for cancellation of annuities and other obligations provided no legal steps are taken against the hospital. However, it is evident that unless funds can be secured in the near future to reduce materially the indebtedness of the hospital, the general situation will become more serious.

In order to ascertain what should be done to help the situation and what it would mean for the church to support the hospital and nurses' training school and what services they can render, we give the following additional information:

Although operating under difficulties, the hospital has met the minimum requirements of the American College of Surgeons, and is registered by the American Medical Association. The training school was approved by the Illinois State Board of Nurse Examiners, by affiliation with Cook County Hospital the students going to Cook County for 15

months of their training. On July 19, 1938, Cook County School of Nursing cancelled this arrangement, thus ending the affiliation with the class entering Bethany Hospital during the fall of 1937. The hospital and nurses' school have also received favorable consideration from those who have patronized them.

On the basis of reports received from churches to which questionnaires were sent, it is estimated that there are at least 280 of our girls in nurses' training schools and about 10% are in the training school at Bethany Hospital. It is noted that Brethren students are in sixty-nine different training schools, and that nearly all of them attend schools at near-by hospitals. A few from distant states, however, come to Bethany Hospital. The Nurses' Training School receives about eighty-five applications for admittance each year, but only ten or twelve can be admitted. Ninety-eight of our girls and thirteen others have entered Bethany Nurses' Training School since it was organized and forty-five altogether have graduated.

Owing to the fact that Bethany Hospital is in the group of the smallest hospitals operating nurses' training schools and having fewer than fifty beds and an average daily census of only about twenty-three patients, each student must take work in an affiliated hospital for fifteen months. All graduates, however, have passed the examination of the state board with generally high averages.

From the facts above stated, and taking into account the General Fund deficit of \$76,966.32 at the end of 1937, to which should be added a considerable amount for the past year; also considering the fact that the upper story of the hospital has not been finished or furnished, which would require about \$15,000; and also that additional equipments are needed, the problem of how to provide help for the institution becomes a very difficult one. If support should become a part of the General Church Budget, it is obvious that the entire brotherhood would share in this support, while the patronage of the hospital as well as the training school is mostly local. Or if needed funds are to come from the churches by general solicitation, it will be necessary to reconsider a former action of the General Conference which limited the solicitation to those specially interested in the hospital.

Under the present arrangement the hospital management has the privilege of soliciting funds from persons specially interested in the service of healing, and possibly, as in former years, some could be found who would help. Unless the above indebtedness can be satisfied and the general patronage increased, liquidation may become necessary.

Committee: L. D. Ikenberry, Chairman; Elmer M. Hersch, Secretary; Rufus P. Bucher.

Answer of Conference: Report accepted and committee, with two new members added, to bring recommendations to next Conference.



Committee: L. D. Ikenberry, Elmer M. Hersch, Rufus P. Bucher, B. F. Studebaker, J. S. Noffsinger.

### Report, 1940

Since submitting our report last year we find that the following important changes have taken place in the status of Bethany Hospital:

(1) Finance. A favorable adjustment in the financial structure of the institution as reported by the auditors has been effected as follows:

(a) Contribution arising from surrender of first mortgage bonds .....	\$ 6,700.00
Contribution arising from waiver of bond interest of prior years .....	5,863.42
Contribution arising from canceling of annuity installments prior years .....	23,726.23
Credit arising from compromise of accounts with creditors .....	10,512.57
(b) Contributions arising from cancellation of annuity contracts .....	81,704.25
	<hr/>
	\$128,506.47

(2) Nurses' Training School. Because of higher standards having been adopted in the interim, the nurses' training school has lost its relations with the Cook County Hospital and has been unable to effect any similar affiliation. This makes it impossible, at the present time, for the hospital to offer acceptable training for professional nursing.

### Recommendations

(1) In view of the excellent progress which has been made during the past year in adjusting the hospital's finance it is recommended that the present management of the hospital diligently continue its efforts to liquidate all current indebtedness along the lines set forth in the agreement between the officials of the hospital and Annual Conference. (See Minutes of Annual Conference 1926, pp. 1-3; 1927, pp. 1-3; 1928, pp. 36, 37.)

(2) In view of current plans to effect further financial adjustments and in view of adjustments which must be made in the nurses' training program as well as other contingencies, it is recommended, upon the suggestion of the hospital officials, that this committee be continued to study further the entire situation before making its final report to Annual Conference.

Committee: L. D. Ikenberry, Chairman; J. S. Noffsinger, Secretary; Rufus P. Bucher; B. F. Studebaker.

Answer: Report accepted and committee continued.

Elmer M. Hersch having been appointed as Manager-Treasurer of the Brethren Publishing House did not sign the report but worked with the

committee. His resignation was accepted and J. J. Yoder was appointed as the new member of the committee.

#### *Report, 1941*

We, your committee, find that commendable progress has been and is now being made in solving certain problems confronting Bethany Hospital. We especially wish to point out the following:

1. That the present indebtedness of the institution is less than one half as large as it was two years ago, and that plans have been made by the trustees to reduce it further. The improved financial situation is due to cash donations, cancellation of obligations by bondholders and creditors, and earnings from operating income.

2. That the present net value of the institution is in excess of \$100,000.

3. That the present management of the hospital is committed to a policy, as far as possible, of liquidating its capital indebtedness through the solicitation of gifts from interested donors, and meeting all current expenses through operating income.

4. That the hospital still possesses its state license to train nurses and definitely plans to resume again that function as soon as its capital structure shall permit.

5. That most church-related hospitals are held in trust by independent boards, and are not owned by the churches whose names may be attached.

We recommend:

1. That the ownership and management of Bethany Hospital continue as is, namely, that it continue as an independent institution held in trust for the Church of the Brethren.

2. That members of the Church of the Brethren interested in the ministry of healing be encouraged to assist the trustees of the hospital in further reducing its capital indebtedness.

3. That the General Education Board continue in its duties and relationship to Bethany Hospital as defined in Annual Conference Minutes of 1926, 1927 and 1928.

4. That the present committee be discontinued.

Committee: L. D. Ikenberry, Chairman; J. S. Noffsinger, Secretary; Rufus P. Bucher; B. F. Studebaker; J. J. Yoder.

Answer of Conference: Report adopted.

#### **Sacrificial Sharing**

We, the B.Y.P.D. of the Oklahoma, Panhandle of Texas and New Mexico district, feeling the need of a definite program of sharing the sacrifice which the conscientious objectors and their dependents will be

forced to undergo, petition Annual Conference through District Meeting assembled at Pampa, Texas, August 20-22 to set up and administer such a plan.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer: We appreciate the spirit of sharing as expressed in this paper, and urge our people to grow in this grace, for we are taught to bear one another's burdens. We suggest: 1. That local churches and districts discover those needs and create ways and means of meeting them. 2. We refer our people to the Brethren Service Committee, the official agency of the brotherhood, for advice and counsel on these needs and problems.

### Concerning Labor Unions

Inasmuch as Annual Meeting Minutes of 1908, Art. 9, and 1915, page 195 of Revised Minutes, give us the principles underlying our relation with labor unions, but give us no specific statement of a Christian's attitude in time of stress, we, the Joint Boards of Northern Indiana, petition Annual Conference of 1941, through district meeting, to prepare a statement which can be used by a member in clarifying his relationships with labor unions as regards oaths, assistance at strikes, or lockouts, etc.

Answer: Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer: As a church, we do not represent any one social or economic group, but attempt to build an inclusive fellowship of all men. We appreciate the problems that grow out of the attempt to integrate the various groups in the social order. On the other hand, there are Christian tenets that should guide us in our relations to others, such as the principles of the Scriptures relating to oaths (Matt. 5: 33-37); the principles involved in our relations to our fellow men (Matt. 5: 38-48 and other scriptures); nonviolence in times of strife (Rom. 12: 18-21); and the fact that we are Christian brethren (Matt. 23: 8). These principles and the spirit of brotherhood should be observed by capital, labor, and the consumer, and efforts at common understanding should be made by all involved.

Therefore: we recommend: That no oath of membership be taken, that an appeal be made to the unions that attendance at meetings be not made a test of membership, and that no violent part be taken in any difficulties, and that the ways of Christian brotherhood be followed.

2. That the Board of Christian Education prepare a form embodying the above principles and make the same available.

3. That the Brethren Service Committee contact the organizations involved.

### Conference Budget for Year Ending February 28, 1943

General Mission Board .....	\$165,000.00
Board of Christian Education .....	19,250.00



General Ministerial Board .....	7,750.00
General Education Board .....	1,500.00
Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	26,500.00
Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund .....	16,000.00
Missionary Service Loan Fund .....	2,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$238,000.00

Answer: Budget approved.

### **The World and the Federal Council of Churches**

Since the Church of the Brethren has for a number of years shared partially in the program of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America by unofficial representation in certain sections of the Council; and since the Conference was officially represented at the World Ecumenical Conferences of Oxford and Edinburgh in 1937; and since much progress has been made toward a World Council of Churches in order to give Protestantism a strong voice in the many strategic situations which now exist throughout the world; and since the World Council as well as the Federal Council is now actively engaged in peace movements of major proportions and is concerned especially with the problem of the conscientious objector, which has been an important concern of the Brethren for more than two hundred years;

Therefore, the Council of Boards recommends that Annual Conference of 1941 authorize constituent membership both in the World Council of Churches and in the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and take steps to appoint official representatives to the Councils of these bodies when our membership has been officially approved by the proper authorities.

It is understood that the Church of the Brethren shall not be bound by any action of these Councils and in no way compromises its doctrinal position by this action. This authorization is made out of a desire to share in the larger fellowship of the Protestant world and to be a more effective comrade of other Christian groups in those great movements for peace and world reconciliation to which we all in Christ owe a common loyalty.

Answer: We approve affiliation with both organizations, but because the World Council of Churches is still in the process of formation for the present we appoint representatives on only the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

Representatives for two years: M. R. Zigler, D. W. Kurtz, Rufus D. Bowman, Paul H. Bowman, Edward K. Ziegler. Alternates: R. E. Mohler, Virgil Stinebaugh, W. W. Slabaugh.

On Executive Committee for two years: M. R. Zigler, Newton D. Long.

### **Names of Five Regions**

As both *zone* and *region* are used to designate the five areas of the brotherhood, the General Ministerial Board, through Standing Committee, recommends that the Conference of 1941 decide that in our literature *region* be uniformly used, viz., Eastern, Southeastern, Central, Western, and Pacific Coast regions.

Answer: Request granted.

### **Cabinet of Children's Work**

The Board of Christian Education asks for a Cabinet of Children's Work and recommends the following appointees for one year: Mrs. Paul H. Bowman, Mary Keiper, Mrs. J. D. Reber, Mrs. Nevin Fisher, Mrs. Frank D. Howell.

Answer: Request granted.

### **Brethren Service Committee Budget**

The Council of Boards recommends:

1. That this budget be regarded as a crisis budget and that the church be challenged to extra sacrifice for relief, peace education and Civilian Public Service.

2. That a general objective of two dollars (\$2.00) per member be established by the church for these joint causes for the fourteen months ending Feb. 28, 1942.

3. That the same objective be established for the year ending Feb. 28, 1943, subject to revision by the Council of Boards in case of necessity.

4. That the church regard the regular Conference budget of \$238,000 and the special crisis budget of the Brethren Service Committee of two dollars (\$2.00) per member per year as the total objective of the whole church and seek to guarantee the Conference Budget as an absolute necessity and the crisis budget as an urgent challenge to great sacrifice to the whole brotherhood.

Answer: Approved.

### **Disability and Retirement of Ministers, Missionaries and Other Church Workers**

As a supplement to the Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund and to private and personal plans for retirement, the Council of Boards recommends that the Conference approve a plan for securing residential properties in suitable locations as homes for retired and disabled church workers. This plan involves the following provisions:

1. That the church build or acquire by gift or otherwise a few homes in suitable areas of the brotherhood which shall become the property of the general church for the use of ministers, missionaries and other workers of the church as need requires.

2. That the General Mission Board be empowered to receive and hold such properties providing they are desirable and suitably located.

3. That such properties be regarded as belonging to the Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund to be jointly administered by the General Mission and General Ministerial Boards by such plan as they may develop.

4. That these Boards be authorized to appoint local trustees or agents in communities where such properties are located for administrative and supervisory purposes and in order to meet legal requirements in the various states regarding the holding of such property. These representatives should serve in co-operation with and under the direction of members of the General Ministerial Board.

5. That the Annual Conference authorize the use of funds from the Conference Budget for Ministerial Relief to inaugurate this movement, the specific amount to be determined by the General Mission and General Ministerial boards and approved by the Council of Boards.

6. That the Annual Conference approve the principle of ministers, who so desire, depositing with the General Mission Board a monthly, quarterly, or yearly sum during the earning period of their lives as a means of providing residential accommodations, at least in part, during their declining years on a plan to be developed by the two boards and approved by the Council of Boards.

Answer: We approve the plans proposed.

### **Conference Program Adjustments**

The Council of Boards recommends that the Annual Conference grant the program committee of the Conference authority to make such minor adjustments in the schedule of the programs as may in its judgment improve and facilitate the work of the Conference.

Answer: Request granted.

### **Historical Commission**

The Council of Boards in its 1938 regular session appointed a Historical Commission and instructed it to gather, produce and preserve Church of the Brethren historical material. Some work has been done along this line. Much remains to be done.

The Council now feels that the time is here for the 1941 Conference to recognize this or a similar Commission and provide means by which the Commission can become active in securing, producing and preserving such material.

Answer: Conference approves what has already been done and recommends that the Council of Boards appropriate funds for the continuation of the work.



### **Pastoral Visitation in Military Camps**

Standing Committee of 1941 recommends pastoral visitation in military camps where Brethren are located. Personnel, supervision and financing of the same to be in charge of the Brethren Service Committee.

Answer: Recommendation approved.

### **Minutes of Business Transacted by Standing Committee in Special Session Dec. 18, 19, 1940, First Church of the Brethren, Chicago, Illinois**

This meeting was called by the officers at the request of the Brethren Advisory Committee for Conscientious Objectors. Standing Committee had been consulted by mail as to calling the meeting. Sixty-two had voted for the meeting, none voting against it. Several qualified their votes, while a few did not respond.

At the appointed time and place Moderator Rufus D. Bowman called the session to order, and after devotionals declared the committee in special session.

In addition to Standing Committee members there were representatives of the General Boards, peace and camp leaders, staff members from Elgin, Paul Comly French, adviser for the peace churches, members of the Advisory Committee and of the Service Committee, Alva J. McLain and Herman A. Hoyt of the Grace Brethren, D. W. Hostetler and Vern Hostetler of the Dunkard Brethren, and others. All were invited to enter into the discussion but the voting was confined to members of the Standing Committee. William Beahm and Omer B. Maphis were appointed messengers.

Certain problems were assigned to a special committee. The committee's report as adopted appears in the following five sections:

1. That Standing Committee authorize the Brethren Service Committee in co-operation with the Elgin staff to outline plans for and administer the raising of the budget. This committee is empowered to suggest to the local districts their appropriate shares of the budget.

2. That Standing Committee request Standing Committee delegates from the several districts in co-operation with the Brethren Service Committee to arrange either a meeting of the elders of the district or a more general meeting attended by elders, district meeting delegates and other interested persons or both. It is the purpose of these meetings to lay before the district the total program of alternative service and outline ways and means of supporting the program.

3. That Standing Committee propose to each congregation the calling of a meeting of the congregation to interpret the plans for alternative service and lay plans for meeting its responsibility.

4. That Standing Committee authorize the integration of the alternative service budget with the peace and relief budget and the General Conference Budget.

5. That Standing Committee strongly urges that this new financial responsibility shall not impair our giving to the regular program of the church. In these days of emergency and conflict Christians have a glorious opportunity to demonstrate the true way of life by their sincerity and the magnitude of their sacrifice.

Other important actions follow:

1. Reaffirmed that we continue to advise our young men that non-combatant service within the army is inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and of the Church of the Brethren. Further, that it cannot be reconciled with our historic peace position.

2. Voted to assume financial responsibility for training our young men, with or without government aid (it not yet being clear what position the government will take as to financial aid), in projects of national importance under civilian control which are in harmony with our convictions regarding military training and service. This may run into large amounts. Our relief funds are coming in at the rate of about \$70,000 for the year. Perhaps \$30,000 to \$40,000 would run the camps till July 1, 1941. From now till Feb. 28, 1942, might run to \$125,000, but no one can be certain as to the expense as yet. For the present it was voted to project the program of \$125,000 up to Feb. 28, 1942. An initial payment of \$2,700 has been made on a camp in Michigan.

3. The whole matter of alternate service was committed to the Brethren Service Committee with full authority to carry out the recommendations of Standing Committee. Because of the problems involved two members were added to this committee to serve until next Conference. These two are J. I. Baugher and J. A. Robinson.

4. Voted to appoint a committee of three who, in the light of experience within the next six months, shall study and report to next Conference through Standing Committee on the whole question of the constitution of the Brethren Service Committee: Paul H. Bowman, Edward Kintner, John Metzler.

5. Voted that we refer to the Brethren Service Committee the problems of general objectives, church policy and educational program of alternative service in the camps.

The sentiment was that alternate service camps should have a high moral standard, free from certain evils that may be tolerated in C. C. and military camps, should make for constructive loyal citizenship and develop Christian leadership for community and church.

All sessions were marked by serious study, a prayerful attitude and a unanimity of mind and action.

Rufus D. Bowman, Moderator; C. Ernest Davis, Reader; J. E. Miller, Secretary.

The above minutes were approved by Conference of 1941.

### **Emergency Meeting of Standing Committee**

#### *Query, 1941*

We, the Harrisonburg church, assembled in regular quarterly council on March 5, 1941, petition the Annual Conference of 1941, through the District Conference of the Northern District of Virginia, to: (1) authorize the Standing Committee to meet at any time in case of an emergency; and (2) to accept its action as authoritative.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer: Should an emergency arise that requires consideration before the next Conference, Conference officers shall poll the Standing Committee members residing in North America and set forth the situation. If two thirds of those polled favor a special session of Standing Committee the officers shall issue the call, fixing both the time and the place of meeting. Should the officers deem it best they may also invite those Boards and Committees whose activities may be especially affected by the emergency. Standing Committee shall report its actions to the next Conference for review.

## **1942, Asheville, North Carolina**

### **Discipline of an Elder; Study of the Deaconship**

#### *Queries, 1941*

#### **A. Discipline of an Elder**

Middle Indiana asks Annual Conference to decide that the Elders' Body of a district may discipline any of its members without referring the case to a local church, whenever, in its judgment, a case warrants such action, provided this is done in a regularly called Elders' Meeting and that two thirds of the elders present concur.

Passed to Annual Conference.

#### **B. A Study of the Deaconship**

Since the Annual Conference has authorized the laying on of hands as a part of the installation service for the office of deacon, thus implying that its function is of major importance in the life of the church, we, the elders of the district, request the Annual Conference of 1941, through the District Meeting of Eastern Maryland, to authorize and provide for a careful study of the deaconship with special reference to its place, func-



tion, and duties in the church of today. If the study concludes that the office should be preserved, the committee is requested to recommend ways and means for restoring the office to a position of influence and service within the church.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer:

### I. Findings

1. We have very efficient organizations for administration in the field of church ministry, but to require these organizations to function in the field of discipline cripples their effectiveness.

2. In certain sections of our brotherhood there has come to be great distress on account of the lack of effective functional supervision.

3. There is need of a restudy of the problem of licensing and installing ministers.

4. There is need of a restudy of the deacon in the local church.

### II. Recommendations

1. That a committee of five be appointed to study the above problems, which committee shall report to the Conference of 1942.

2. That the elders' bodies of the districts be given authority to discipline officials and laymen in local churches when the situations are serious and when local churches are unable to handle the cases without disrupting church harmony.

3. That the study called for in query B be referred to this committee.

Committee: J. W. Lear, Rufus D. Bowman, Rufus P. Bucher, M. J. Brougher, D. W. Kurtz.

### Report of Committee, 1942

(This report of the Committee on the Study of the Deaconship was amended and adopted as follows.)

The committee carefully considered the problems raised by the Queries A and B, as well as the action taken by the Annual Meeting of 1941, Minutes of Annual Conference, pp. 48, 49, and submits the following report.

### The Church Ministry

The New Testament clearly indicates a dual classification for the ministry of the church. The one *The Teaching Ministry* (Eph. 4: 11-16); the other *The Supervising Ministry* (1 Tim. 3: 1-13; 1 Cor. 12: 1-31).

The qualifications for such service are amply stated in these and other scriptures.

### I. The Teaching Ministry

This service calls for a large diversity of gifts—such as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, etc.

Some of these functions may be operative in persons who have not been formally set apart as ministers of the church. When one desires to administer the teaching function as a pastor or an evangelist, however, that one should be set apart or licensed by an action of the church and should receive training for such service. One having this desire may volunteer. This application should be made in writing, with reasons attached, to the official board of the church. Members of the district board should be informed and the two boards should examine the volunteer with reference (a) to his or her aims, (b) to natural ability, (c) to moral and spiritual fitness, (d) to willing preparation for the duties of the ministry. If and when these boards are satisfied that the applicant qualifies, he or she shall be licensed as directed in the minutes of the Annual Meeting and the order of service as printed in the Pastor's Manual. Such licentiate should not be ordained to the ministry until ready to take up active service.

If in the judgment of the official board, there is material in the congregation, but such party does not volunteer, the local board should request the district board to assist in holding an election. If the congregation makes a choice and the one so chosen accepts the call, the examination and the licensing shall take place as set forth above.

The classification of ministers in the Church of the Brethren shall be as follows: Licentiate, Ordained Ministers, Ordained Elders.

## II. The Supervising Ministry

The local elders, ministers and deacons constitute the members of the "Supervising Ministry" or the "Official Board" of the congregation. The presiding elder shall be the chairman of this board, unless another provision is made by the board.

### Duties

1. This board may submit to any committee of the congregation suggestions which may be considered helpful to the progress of the work.
2. Periodically review the membership roll, and, when cases of inactive or delinquent members are discovered, institute measures to bring about restoration, or, if failing, submit such cases to the congregation for action.
3. Cases of a very serious nature, which might destroy the peace and unity of the congregation, should be referred to the elders of the district. The local board should present the facts to the elders in session. The elders may hear the case and render a decision or they may appoint a committee with power to act. The decision, in either case, should be submitted to the congregation for ratification. The congregation, however, may waive all its own authority, and commit the matter to the elders for settlement. In such cases the decision would not need ratification by the congregation.

4. In the event an elder, a minister, or a deacon is seriously involved or is the direct cause of the disaffection, the local board shall not have jurisdiction in such case but may call upon the adjoining elders to assist in adjusting such cases. Should this course fail, the matter should at once be referred to the elders of the district. This body should review the facts submitted and appoint a committee to work with the local church and the party or parties concerned. If this committee fails to make adjustment, the case shall be re-committed to a session of the elders of the district for final decision. The decision of this body need not be ratified by the congregation, but the decision should be read to the congregation by a committee approved by the elders. An appeal or a request for review of such cases may be made to the Standing Committee of the brotherhood.

5. If because of the negligence of the official board, the congregation is suffering, the elders of the district should initiate an action for the relief of the situation.

#### The Office of Deacon

The church of the first century, both in its program and its organization, sensed the importance of providing for worthy spiritual servants called deacons (Acts 6:1-6; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-13).

The need for such servants is just as great now. Our problems may be different in form but they demand in those who handle them the same moral and spiritual virility. A re-evaluation of the office and work of the deacon is quite essential.

#### 1. Organizing and Perpetuating the Deacon Board.

- (1) The size and the location of the congregation should determine the number of active members on the board.
- (2) A probationary period of one or two years should be allowed before the selectees are installed. The installation should follow a vote of approval by the congregation.
- (3) At the age of seventy, deacons may be retired from active duties and younger men should be selected to fill up the active personnel. The retired men may still be used in an advisory capacity.
- (4) When a deacon moves into the bounds of another congregation, his service as a deacon in the new location shall be determined by a ballot vote of the congregation. The official board shall determine the time of this vote and prepare for it.
- (5) If, for any reason, the deacon board has lost its place and influence in the congregation, a plan for revitalization should immediately be attempted, in harmony with this form.
- (6) The deacon board should organize by electing a chairman and a secretary for a term of three years. The chairman should be



chosen because of his spirituality and his administrative ability. The secretary should know how to record minutes and keep records.

- (7) Regular meetings should be held by the deacon board. The officers should prepare an agenda for the meeting. Any member of the congregation has the privilege of presenting in writing, with signature attached, any matter deemed helpful for the work.
  - (8) The Annual Meeting should arrange for the preparation and publication of a Manual which would:
    - a. Fully set forth the duties of office.
    - b. Outline the qualifications of candidates for office.
    - c. Provide a service of installation for deacons.
    - d. Describe the spiritual implications of the office.
    - e. Offer instruction and guidance in the field of co-operation with the ministry of the church, the area of service represented by the Brethren Service Committee, the importance of proper physical arrangement for the Love Feast and Communion, effective methods of raising funds to carry forward the work of the church, plans for investing church funds and properly accounting for the same; unless these last two items are provided for by some other organization.
  - (9) That there be instituted in each region and district a series of institutes for the purpose of educating and training in the functions of the deacon's office.
2. The Duties of the Deacon
- (1) Since young men of good character, possessing executive ability and financial management, will be members of the deacon board, congregations choosing members for trustees and finance committees should make some of their selections from this board.
  - (2) The deacon board should be charged with arranging the physical equipment when the rites of Baptism, Love Feast and Communion are to be observed. They should have in mind the spiritual nature of these services. When requested by the minister, deacons may assist in performing these rites.
  - (3) They may be used by the minister to perform the annual visit, to bring aid and encouragement to the sick and the invalids, to assist in the anointing service, or do the anointing in their own right when no ministers are available and the case is urgent, to see that individuals or families suffering the lack of material necessities are not neglected, to aid in restoring those who have grown indifferent to active fellowship, to assist in promoting a healthy program of evangelism, to fill the pulpit at the request of the minister in his absence.

- (4) They shall be the agency for implementing in the congregation the program of the Brethren Service Committee both in regard to service and the procuring of funds for the support of the same.

Only such minutes of Annual Meeting as are in conflict with this report will be annulled by its passage.

Committee: John W. Lear, Rufus D. Bowman, Rufus P. Bucher, Daniel W. Kurtz, Mahlon J. Brougher.

### Conference Program Committee

#### *Query, 1934*

The First church of Roanoke, Va., petitions Annual Conference through District Conference of First Virginia, to decide:

1. That the National Council of Boards (or its successor) shall be responsible for the building of the Annual Conference program.

2. That the Moderator-elect shall assist in the building of this program.

3. That the present Conference Program Committee be discontinued.

Answer of Conference: The General Mission Board, the General Ministerial Board, the Board of Christian Education and the General Education Board shall each appoint a representative who with the Moderator-elect and the Secretary, ex officio, shall constitute the Program Committee.

Committee: H. L. Hartsough, M. R. Zigler, W. W. Peters, H. Spenser Minnich; ex officio, C. C. Ellis, J. E. Miller.

### TWO-YEAR APPOINTMENT

Standing Committee requests that Board appointments on the Program Committee be for two years, except that those appointed this year by the General Ministerial and General Education boards shall be each for one year.

Answer: Request granted.

### COMMITTEE ENLARGED

#### *Query, 1942*

The Council of Boards in session Oct. 30, 1941, considered the need for co-ordination between the Arrangements Committee and the Program Committee for the Annual Conference. Inasmuch as some functional co-ordination between the two committees would seem to be helpful and no official arrangement has been made for such co-ordination, we recommend to Annual Conference through the Standing Committee the following:

That the executive officer as determined by each committee; namely, the Committee of Arrangements, and the Program Committee, by virtue of his position, be also a member of the other committee.

Answer: Request granted.

**A Study of Conference Auditors***Query, 1941*

Standing Committee recommends that Conference of 1941 appoint a committee of three businessmen who shall study the problem of Conference auditors and report to Conference of 1942.

Answer: Recommendation approved.

Committee: Russell L. Showalter, Elmer Eshelman, Wilbur Barnhart.

*Report of Committee, 1942*

The committee appointed to investigate and report on the auditing of church books conferred with the Treasurer of the General Mission Board and with the Manager of the Brethren Publishing House. It studied the present arrangement for auditing and considered possible modifications. The committee makes these recommendations:

1. That we continue the present system of appointing two members of the church as an auditing committee, but with these stipulations:

(a) That they shall be men of broad accounting and business experience.

(b) That they shall serve under the same conditions as General Board members in respect to remuneration for time and expenses.

(c) That they shall be subject to reasonable call to serve as consultants or to make recommendations on general financial matters to the General Boards, the Publishing House, and to the Standing Committee and Annual Conference.

(d) It shall be the duty of the auditing committee to employ at the expense of the Conference treasurer competent public accountants who shall audit the books or accounts of all General Boards and Committees, the Brethren Publishing House, Bethany Biblical Seminary, and the Annual Meeting Treasurer.

2. The committee surveyed the nature and scope of recent auditing procedures of the firm employed to conduct the audits. The committee is favorably impressed with the thoroughness and expertness of the work of this firm and sees no reason for modifying the arrangement at this time.

Certain technical questions raised by the auditors were taken up and the committee satisfied itself that appropriate measures were being taken to conform to the suggestions of the auditors. The total cost of the auditing program seems to the committee to be reasonable. Any reduction in these costs might endanger the effectiveness of the audit and its subsequent value to the boards concerned.

Russell L. Showalter, Chairman; Wilbur S. Barnhart, Secretary; Elmer Eshelman.

Answer: Report adopted.



### Mission Work Among the Mexicans

To district conference of the Church of the Brethren of Texas and Louisiana, assembled at Roanoke, La., July 24-28, 1941, Greeting:

We, the Falfurrias church, respectfully ask Annual Conference to order the establishment of a brotherhood-supported Mexican mission at some strategic border point.

Answer: Referred to the General Mission Board for their consideration.

### Conference Budget

The Council of Boards presents the following budgets for revision and adoption. Column A is the budget adopted at the 1941 La Verne Conference for the year to end February 28, 1943. The Council of Boards recommends revision of that budget as indicated in Column B. Such revision is intended to be retroactive to the beginning of the year March 1, 1942.

Column C is the Council of Boards' recommendation of Conference Budget for the year to end Feb. 29, 1944.

	Column A Year Ending Feb. 28, 1943	Column B Year Ending Feb. 28, 1943	Column C Year Ending Feb. 29, 1944
General Mission Board .....	\$165,000.00	\$165,000.00	\$175,000.00
Board of Christian Education...	19,250.00	21,135.00	23,250.00
General Ministerial Board .....	7,750.00	7,750.00	7,750.00
General Education Board .....	1,500.00	1,500.00	5,000.00
Bethany Biblical Seminary ....	26,500.00	29,500.00	29,500.00
Ministerial & Miss'y Serv. Fund	16,000.00	16,000.00	18,000.00
Missionary Service Loan Fund.	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
	<hr/> \$238,000.00	<hr/> \$242,885.00	<hr/> \$260,500.00

Answer: Approved revised budget in Column B and proposed budget in Column C.

### Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America

The Martinsburg Memorial Church of the Brethren respectfully requests that the District Meeting of Middle Pennsylvania consider the question of membership of the Church of the Brethren in the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and, if approved by District Meeting, the same be passed to Annual Meeting for reconsideration.

Answer of District Meeting: With a view of preserving and strengthening the unity and peace of the church, this paper is passed to the General Conference.

Joseph H. Clapper, Writing Clerk.

Answer of Annual Meeting: Request for reconsideration was granted. Following this reconsideration the position of 1941 was reaffirmed.

### **The Service of Youth**

Since the youth of the church have been serving for a number of years in areas of human need, giving one year of their lives without compensation, and since the needs of the world have so greatly expanded for a ministry of this character, the Council of Boards recommends that the Annual Conference approve the principle of voluntary service by members of the church with the understanding that those who volunteer one year of service shall be chosen and assigned with great care to such service as they are amply qualified to render and that the church provide the actual expense of such ministry on a subsistence basis.

Answer: Request granted.

### **Conference Booklet**

A special resolution was approved by Conference, as follows: "In order that members of Standing Committee may have the Conference Booklet in proper time, all material for the Booklet should be in the hands of the Secretary not later than April 20. The Secretary need not delay beyond this date the printing of the Booklet."

### **Legal Counsel for Conscientious Objectors**

#### *Query, 1935*

We, the Pipe Creek congregation, ask Annual Conference through the Eastern District of Maryland, to provide legal counsel for our members who are attending schools where military training is compulsory. The duties of such counsel shall be to instruct, advise and defend brethren who may be called upon to violate conscientious scruples relative to participation in or learning the arts of war.

Answer: The District Meeting of Eastern Maryland requests Annual Meeting to appoint a committee to counsel our young people respecting participation in military training service.

Answer of Conference: Because the Board of Christian Education is studying this problem and has a committee at work we approve their answer and their committee, which is appointed for a period of five years, namely:

The duties of this committee are—

1. To study the question of compulsory military training as it relates to state colleges and to release information to our young people clarifying this issue.
2. To offer young people advice regarding attendance at schools where military training is compulsory.
3. To study existing laws and to secure legal opinion regarding the status of conscientious objectors in the event of war.
4. To study carefully with competent legal counsel in co-operation

with the Friends, Mennonites and other peace-loving bodies, the position that our young people should take in the event of war.

5. To discuss this question with our young people in colleges, camps, and conferences and help prepare them to meet war crises.

6. To offer advice to young people if or when a war comes.

Committee: Rufus D. Bowman, Paul H. Bowman, F. S. Carper; ex officio members: C. Ray Keim, Peace Committee; M. R. Zigler, Board of Christian Education; Dan West, Young People's Work; Ross D. Murphy, Pastoral Association.

The above committee shall appoint advisory members in different sections of our brotherhood to carry out the above duties.

### *Report of the Committee, 1936*

The committee has met three times and serious consideration has been given to the tasks assigned. Studies are being made regarding: (1) compulsory military training in civil educational institutions, and (2) the legal status of conscientious objectors. The committee desires to make the following initial recommendations on the positions that our young people should take in the event of war.

I. Types of services considered not consistent with the historical position of the church.

1. Chaplaincy in the army or navy.
2. Red Cross service if this organization is definitely committed to render active service under the military command in the event of war.
3. Hospital service if under military command.
4. Y.M.C.A. work if under military command.
5. The purchase of Liberty Bonds to finance the war.
6. The taking of excess profit from industry or farming or excess income from securities which a state of war produces except to build a fund for the furtherance of goodwill or to help support the families which suffer because of their conscientious objections to war.
7. The paying of Federal income tax, if used for military purposes, except under protest.
8. Services of any kind within the ranks of the army, all of which are without question under direct military command.

II. Types of service considered consistent with the historical position of the church.

1. Constructive service under church or civilian directions, such as housing, road making, farming, forestry, hospitalization, and recreational work.

2. Relief work under the church or civilian direction in and outside of the war zone, or in neutral zones, either as a denomination or in co-operation with the Friends and the Mennonites.



### III. Plan of action to meet war crises.

1. That as a denomination we present our historical position on war and peace in the form of memorials to the President of the United States, governors of states in which we have members located, and to such local officers who might by their position become members in the mobilization system.

2. That in local congregations the pastor or the minister in charge of the congregation shall prepare those members subject to the military call to meet the war crises.

Answer: Report adopted.

### *Report of Committee, 1938*

The Committee on Counsel for Conscientious Objectors desires to make the following recommendations to the Conference of 1938 on the positions that our people should take in the event of war:

#### I. Types of service considered consistent with the historic position of the church:

1. Constructive service under church or civilian direction, such as housing, road making, farming, forestry, hospitalization, and recreational work.

2. Relief work under the church or civilian direction in and outside of the war zone, or in neutral zones, either as a denomination or in co-operation with the Friends and the Mennonites.

#### II. Types of services considered not consistent with the historic position of the church:

1. Chaplaincy in the army or navy.

2. Red Cross service if this organization is definitely committed to render active service under military command in the event of war.

3. Hospital service if under military command.

4. Y.M.C.A. work if under military command.

5. Services of any kind within the ranks of the army, all which are without question under direct military command.

#### III. Types of peace testimony to register our convictions and to avoid our participation in war-related activities:

1. The refraining from the purchase of such as Liberty Bonds to finance war.

2. The renunciation of, or the sacrificial use of, profits derived from industry, farming, or invested securities as a result of war; sacrificing always during war periods to build a fund for the furtherance of goodwill and for the support of families who suffer because of their conscientious objections to war.

3. The protesting against federal taxes if used for military purposes.

#### IV. Plan of action to meet war crises:

1. That as a denomination we present our historic position on war and peace in the form of memorials to the President of the United States and to the governors of states in which we have members located. We urge that influential members of our churches present, informally and unofficially, our position to local governmental officials who might by their position become part of the mobilization system.

2. That in a local congregation the pastor or the minister in charge of the congregation shall prepare those members subject to the military call to meet the crisis.

3. That in the event of a war crisis the minister in charge of the congregation shall consult with the Conference Committee or a regional or district representative of the committee on any situation not covered by previous church decisions or situations in which, in the judgment of the minister, their counsel and advice would be helpful. The minister shall counsel with those subject to military conscription and advise with them regarding the position of the church in terms of any particular problem.

4. That the local congregations of the brotherhood be urged to declare their purpose to give relief to bona fide cases of suffering on account of their conscientious objection to war in either peacetime or wartime and that they have the privilege of calling upon the district and the brotherhood for assistance when the burden becomes too heavy for the local churches to bear. In the event that an appeal for assistance is made to a district or to the brotherhood, this shall be done only after approval by the Board of Christian Education of the district or brotherhood respectively, and all funds received shall be subject to the supervision of the appropriate board.

5. That in states where teachers' oath laws have been enacted, or proposed, our districts or our local churches, or both, express our convictions in opposition to such laws. Also, that in cases where members object because of conscience to such laws and suffer loss thereby, the recommendation just preceding be carried out.

6. That in case of federal action in the direction of conscription in wartime, or of state legislation favoring compulsory military training in state colleges or high schools, our districts or local congregations, or both, express our convictions against such laws to those responsible for the legislation in question. Likewise, that protest be made against existing regulations providing for compulsory military training in state high schools or colleges.

Rufus D. Bowman, Chairman; C. Ray Keim, Secretary.

## BRETHREN SERVICE COMMITTEE SUCCEEDS C. O. COMMITTEE

*Query, 1940*

The committee has the following recommendation in regard to the continuation of its work:

1. That the terms of office of the present committee terminate with this Conference.
2. That this Conference continue this service for a period of three years through a new committee appointed to serve for that time.
3. And that this Conference redefine the functions of this committee in the light of new situations and that it be renamed, describing thereby more accurately the committee.

Committee: Rufus D. Bowman, C. Ray Keim, M. R. Zigler, Paul H. Bowman, Ross D. Murphy, F. S. Carper, Dan West.

Conference approved both the Report of the Committee on Counsel for Conscientious Objectors and the recommendation of Standing Committee, namely:

1. That a Brethren Advisory Committee for Conscientious Objectors of three members be elected for a term of three years.
2. In order that the work of the Brethren Advisory Committee for Conscientious Objectors and of the Brethren Service Committee may be correlated it is recommended that the chairman of the Brethren Advisory Committee for Conscientious Objectors be a member of the Brethren Service Committee, with duties as named in numbers 1 to 6 in the report.

Answer of Conference: Recommendations approved.

Committee: Paul H. Bowman, Ross D. Murphy, M. R. Zigler, 1943.

Note: Standing Committee felt that in case conditions should call for considerable time in this matter the Boards might possibly release M. R. Zigler for this service.

*Action of Standing Committee, December 1940*

1. Reaffirmed that we continue to advise our young men that non-combatant service within the army is inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and of the Church of the Brethren. Further, that it cannot be reconciled with our historic peace position.

2. Voted to assume financial responsibility for training our young men, with or without government aid (it not yet being clear what position the government will take as to financial aid), in projects of national importance under civilian control which are in harmony with our convictions regarding military training and service. This may run into large amounts. Our relief funds are coming in at the rate of about \$70,000 for the year. Perhaps \$30,000 to \$40,000 would run the camps till July 1, 1941. From now till Feb. 28, 1942, might run to \$125,000, but no one can be certain as to the expense as yet. For the present it was voted



to project the program of \$125,000 up to Feb. 28, 1942. An initial payment of \$2,700 has been made on a camp in Michigan.

3. The whole matter of alternate service was committed to the Brethren Service Committee with full authority to carry out the recommendations of Standing Committee. Because of the problems involved two members were added to this committee to serve until next Conference. These two are J. I. Baugher and J. A. Robinson.

4. Voted to appoint a committee of three who, in the light of experience within the next six months, shall study and report to next Conference through Standing Committee on the whole question of the constitution of the Brethren Service Committee: Paul H. Bowman, Edward Kintner, John Metzler.

5. Voted that we refer to the Brethren Service Committee the problems of general objectives, church policy and educational program of alternative service in the camps.

#### *Report on Reorganization and Function of Brethren Service Committee, 1941*

(The committee making this report was appointed by Standing Committee at the special session of Dec. 18 and 19, 1940.)

##### **I. Function of the Committee.**

The Brethren Service Committee finds its charter in the words of the Master: "I was hungry and ye gave me to eat; . . . I was a stranger and ye took me in; I was naked and ye clothed me; I was sick and ye visited me; I was in prison and ye came unto me . . . inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me."

This committee represents the Church of the Brethren in the area of social action. Its primary function is that of personal rehabilitation and social reconstruction in the name and spirit of Christ. Its fields of service are as follows:

1. To arrest and eliminate, in so far as possible, those forces in human society which contribute to the disintegration of personality and character, and to social instability. The Brethren recognize war, intemperance, political corruption, and the breakdown of the family as important among these forces (1 Thess. 5:14-15).

2. To relieve human distress and suffering around the world without regard to barriers of race, creed or nationality. This includes the service of the church among refugees, exiles, prisoners, orphans, widows, the aged and other conditions of human life in which there is need for physical and spiritual relief compatible with the ideals, traditions, and financial resources of the church (Gal. 6:10).

3. To represent the church in the area of creative citizenship and Christian testimony on issues of national and international significance.

This includes the program of Civilian Public Service and the relation of the church and its members to the government in regard to peace and war and situations where the principle of religious freedom is involved (1 Peter 2: 12).

4. To develop, organize and apply the spiritual and financial resources of the church to the above areas of service as a concrete and practical expression of the spirit and teaching of Christ as the Brethren understand and interpret them. This shall include the expressional side of our peace program in an effort of world reconciliation and the preservation of goodwill and human understanding among all peoples and races. The work of the committee shall be carried on so far as possible on a voluntary basis (Rom. 12: 20-21).

## II. The Organization of the Committee.

1. The committee shall consist of five members at large nominated by Standing Committee and approved by Annual Conference. Each General Board shall appoint an additional ex-officio member.

Associate representation shall be granted to other Brethren bodies if at any time they desire to share in the service of the committee.

2. The term of office shall be five years for Conference appointees with expirations arranged so that there may be one occurring each year. General Board representatives shall be appointed for a period of one year.

3. This committee shall be guided by the Council of Boards in all matters of general policy. It shall be the general service agency for the church at large and shall serve as an arm of the general boards of the church. It shall co-operate with all other boards and service agencies of the church as a co-ordinating committee in order to avoid duplication of effort, and shall enter no field already occupied by any existing board or committee except by mutual agreement and with the approval of the Council of Boards. It shall have the privilege of reporting directly to the Standing Committee and through Standing Committee to Annual Conference.

4. This committee shall have authority, with approval of the Council of Boards, to maintain the necessary staff to do its work efficiently and shall be limited in its service only by the funds which it can secure to carry on its work in harmony with the general program of the church. It shall have authority to solicit funds outside the church, but shall accept no gifts except as they are clearly in harmony with the purposes and policies of the church in the area of service represented by this committee. Such gifts shall be unrestricted.

5. Since this committee represents in the church the function associated with the office of deacon in the New Testament church, it shall be understood that the adoption of the report by Annual Conference implies

that that office shall be the medium through which the work of the Service Committee shall be implemented in the local congregation. The committee shall have the privilege where the office of deacon is inoperative of effecting the necessary organization within the local congregation to carry on its work.

6. The committee shall have the authority to incorporate and to hold property and funds associated with the service which it represents.

7. The present Brethren Service Committee and the Committee on Counsel for Conscientious Objectors shall be dissolved with the passage of this report.

Committee: Paul H. Bowman, John Metzler, Edward Kintner.

Answer: Report adopted.

### **Incorporation of the Brethren Service Committee**

The Conference of 1941 authorized the incorporation of the Brethren Service Committee. In order to satisfy certain legal requirements incident to incorporation the Council of Boards recommends the adoption of the following report:

1. The name of such corporation is Brethren Service Committee.
2. Objects for which incorporation is undertaken: to assist in the personal rehabilitation and social reconstruction of those who are in need; to relieve human distress and suffering among all peoples; to give physical and spiritual relief to refugees, exiles, prisoners, widows, the aged, and to others who are in need of such relief; in times of war or during other national or international emergencies:—to carry on a program of civilian public service; to represent the Church of the Brethren and to aid in the organization, development and application of the spiritual and financial resources of the church for and to the foregoing fields of service; and generally to engage in educational, philanthropic and charitable work, which charitable work, however, shall not include the care of neglected or dependent children away from their homes.
3. That Annual Conference rescind Art. II paragraph (1) and (2) under "The Organization of the Committee" of the Report on Reorganization and Function of Brethren Service Committee as adopted by the Annual Conference of 1941 and to substitute the following:
  - a. The Committee shall consist of nine members, five of whom shall be members nominated at large by Standing Committee and four of whom shall be nominated one each by General Mission Board, Board of Christian Education, General Ministerial Board, and General Education Board and approved by Standing Committee. All nine members must be approved by Annual Conference.



Associate representation shall be granted to other Brethren bodies if at any time they desire to share in the service of the Committee.

- b. The term of office of the five members at large shall be five years with expirations arranged so that there may be one occurring each year. The term of office of the four members whose nominations originate with the several Boards shall be one year.

Answer: Report adopted.

## 1943, McPherson, Kansas

### Retirement Plan for Ministers and Missionaries

*Query, 1942*

The Council of Boards grants general approval to a plan for ministerial and missionary retirement which has been developed by the General Mission and General Ministerial boards and recommends that the following report be considered by the Annual Conference of 1942.

Answer: This plan is to be spread on the minutes for one year.

### *Report of Pension Committee, 1943*

The Asheville Annual Conference approved for study a pension plan for ministers and missionaries. The committee has secured the services of Mr. George Huggins, a trusted actuary in the field of pensions for ministers and church workers. Through his guidance the committee is proposing the following plan for study. This plan will be an item of business for the Annual Conference of 1943. We therefore urge individual ministers and groups of ministers or laymen to study this plan critically. We sincerely request that suggestions for improvement of the plan be sent to the committee as soon as possible.—Pension Committee.

After revision and correction the plan was adopted as follows:

### REVISED MINISTERIAL AND MISSIONARY PENSION PLAN ARTICLE I

#### Definitions

- (a) The term *the Church* shall mean the Church of the Brethren.
- (b) The term *Pension Board* shall mean the General Mission Board and the General Ministerial Board of the Church of the Brethren, with the General Mission Board acting as the holding board.
- (c) The term *pension plan* shall mean the pension plan hereby established.

(d) The term *effective date of the pension plan* shall mean the date of the inauguration of the pension plan as determined by the Pension Board.

(e) The term *member* shall mean a minister or other person eligible under Article II who has been accepted and is enrolled as a member of the pension plan.

(f) The term *congregation* shall mean the congregation or other organization paying a salary to a member.

(g) The term *he* shall mean either "he" or "she" and *his* shall mean either "his" or "her" as the context may require.

(h) The term *widow* shall mean the widow of a deceased member, who is eligible for a widow annuity.

(i) The term *minor child* shall mean the child of a deceased member, who has not attained the age of eighteen years.

(j) The term *salary* shall mean the fixed salary of a member, plus fifteen per cent of the fixed salary in the case of a member for whom the congregation furnishes the free use of a residence, and in the case of free ministers the term *salary* shall mean \$1,200.

(k) The term *member contributions* shall mean the payments by a member, as provided in Articles III and V.

(l) The term *congregation contributions* shall mean the payments by a congregation, as provided in Articles IV and V.

(m) The term *member accumulation* shall mean the accumulated total of the member contributions plus the interest credits thereon.

(n) The term *congregation accumulation* shall mean the accumulated total of the congregation contributions credited to the member plus the interest credits thereon.

(o) The term *combined accumulation* shall mean the total of the member accumulation and of the congregation accumulation.

(p) The term *retirement annuitant* shall mean a member receiving an age retirement annuity.

(q) The term *disability annuitant* shall mean a member receiving a disability annuity.

(r) The term *widow annuitant* shall mean a widow receiving a widow annuity.

(s) The term *retirement* shall mean the retirement of a member from all active service in the Church or in the ministry to which any salary arrangement in excess of three hundred dollars per annum is attached after attaining the age of sixty-five years.

## ARTICLE II

### Membership

Those eligible for membership shall be:

(a) Ordained ministers who are in good ministerial standing in the Church.

(b) Foreign missionaries, commissioned by the Church, such as pastors, teachers and physicians.

(c) Such other persons or groups of persons as may be declared eligible from time to time by the Pension Board, subject to the approval of the Conference of the Church of the Brethren.

### ARTICLE III

#### Member Contributions

Each member shall contribute an amount equivalent to four per cent of his salary during his active membership. All such contributions shall be credited to the individual account of the member and be increased by the interest credits thereon.

### ARTICLE IV

#### Congregation Contributions

Each congregation served by a member shall contribute an amount equivalent to four per cent of the salary of such member. Such contributions shall be items of current expense and not of benevolence.

All such congregation contributions shall be subject to a deduction by the Pension Board of not to exceed one-eighth thereof toward the expense of administering the pension plan, and a further deduction of not to exceed one-eighth thereof for the contingent fund. The balance of each such congregation contribution shall be credited to the individual account of the member serving such congregation and shall be increased by the interest credits thereon.

In the event that a congregation served by a member does not contribute as hereinbefore provided, then one-half of the amounts which would otherwise have been deducted from the congregation contributions for administrative expenses and for the contingent fund, shall be deducted from such member's contributions.

### ARTICLE V

#### Additional Optional Contributions

Both the member and his congregation, to the extent permitted by the rules and regulations of the Pension Board, may respectively make additional contributions which shall be allocated, handled and applied as member contributions as provided in Article III and as congregation contributions as provided in Article IV, respectively.

### ARTICLE VI

#### Interest Credits

Interest credits shall be added annually to such amounts as may be credited to or accumulated for a member, out of the earnings on investments at a rate to be determined periodically by the Pension Board.



## ARTICLE VII

## Annuity and Death Benefits

**Section A. Age Retirement Annuity**

**Paragraph (a)**—Upon the retirement of a member after attaining the age of sixty-five, his combined accumulation shall be applied as the actuarial equivalent, according to the table of rates adopted by the Pension Board for such purpose and then in force, to provide an age retirement annuity for the member on the joint-life and survivor basis with fifty per cent of the member's annuity continued to the widow. However, if the member is single at the time of his retirement, the calculation of the amount of such retirement annuity shall be based upon assumed equal ages for member and wife, except that this rule shall not be applied (a) if the age retirement annuity on the single-life basis provided by the combined accumulation is less than three hundred dollars or (b) to reduce below three hundred dollars an age retirement annuity on the single-life basis which would otherwise be in excess of three hundred dollars.

**Paragraph (b)**—In the event a retired member resumes active service in the Church or in the ministry, his age retirement annuity shall terminate and his period of retirement shall be presumed to have ceased with the resumption of a salary, and until his death or subsequent retirement, he and his congregation shall assume the same status with respect to contributions and in all other respects as in case of an active member before retirement. Also proper actuarial adjustment shall be made in annuities and benefits subsequently due such member and his dependents, for suspension of annuity payments and contributions made during the period subsequent to his temporary retirement. The Pension Board may adopt rules and regulations covering the case of retired members receiving part-time salaries.

**Section B. Disability Annuity**

**Paragraph (a)**—In the event of the total and presumably permanent disability of the member before attaining the age of sixty-five, his combined accumulation shall be applied as the actuarial equivalent, according to the table of rates adopted by the Pension Board for such purpose and then in force, to provide a disability annuity for the member, on the joint-life and survivor basis, with fifty per cent of the member's annuity continued to the widow. However, if the member is single at the time of such disability, the calculation of the amount of such disability annuity shall be made as outlined in Article VII, Section A, Paragraph (a).

**Paragraph (b)**—Proof of disability satisfactory to the Pension Board must be made upon the forms and in the manner provided by the Pension Board, and shall include certification of a competent physician as to such disability. The Pension Board shall have the right to require proof

of continued disability from time to time but at intervals of not less than a period of one year.

**Paragraph (c)**—If the disability annuitant should recover because such disability proved to be temporary rather than permanent, the disability annuity shall terminate as of the date the member is able to resume a gainful occupation, and, until his subsequent death, disability, or retirement, he and his congregation shall assume the same status with respect to contributions and in all other respects as in case of an active member before retirement. Also proper actuarial adjustments shall be made in annuities and benefits subsequently due such member and his dependents, for suspension of annuity payments and contributions made during the period subsequent to his temporary disability. The Pension Board may adopt rules and regulations covering the case of disability annuitants receiving part-time salaries.

### **Section C. Widow Annuity**

In the event of the death of a member before entering upon an age retirement or a disability annuity, with a widow surviving, his combined accumulation shall be applied as the actuarial equivalent, according to the table of rates adopted by the Pension Board for such purpose and then in force, to provide a widow annuity. However, in no case shall the widow annuity exceed the fifty per cent that would have been provided for her in the event that the member had continued in active service until the attainment of the age of sixty-five on the salary basis of the last twelve months of service; provided, however, that this rule shall not be applied (a) if the widow annuity provided by the combined accumulation is less than three hundred dollars, or (b) to reduce below three hundred dollars a widow annuity which would otherwise be in excess of three hundred dollars.

### **Section D. Death Benefit Other Than Widow Annuity**

**Paragraph (a)**—In the event of the death of the member before entering upon an age retirement or disability annuity, leaving no widow but a minor child or children surviving, his member accumulation shall be applied by the Pension Board for the support, education and maintenance of such child or children while under eighteen years of age and unmarried, and, if any balance thereof remains when the youngest child attains age eighteen, an amount equivalent to such balance shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (d). In case the Pension Board in its sole discretion deems the member accumulation insufficient to provide for the minor children as aforesaid, it may apply any portion or all of the congregation accumulation which it deems reasonably necessary for said purposes.

**Paragraph (b)**—In the event of the death of the member before entering upon an age retirement or disability annuity, leaving no widow and

no minor child, an amount equivalent to his member accumulation shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (d).

**Paragraph (c)**—In the event that the amounts paid in the form of annuities under the provisions of Sections A, B and C aggregate less than the member accumulation, an amount equivalent to the excess of such member accumulation over such annuity payments shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (d), provided, that if any minor child or children of the member survive the annuitants, they shall first be provided for out of such excess in the manner indicated under the Paragraph (a) until the youngest reaches age eighteen.

**Paragraph (d)**—Any balances of member accumulation becoming payable under the provisions of Paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) shall be payable to the contingent beneficiary designated by the member, or if there is no contingent beneficiary surviving, then to the estate of the member.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Withdrawal Benefit

Any member who becomes ineligible under the provisions of Article II before entering upon an age retirement or a disability annuity can make no further member contributions to the pension plan. In such event, upon application, his member accumulation shall be paid to him, his congregation accumulation shall be transferred to the supplemental benefit fund and he shall have no further claim on the Pension Board. However, if such member leaves his member accumulation in the pension fund, his congregation accumulation shall remain to his credit, and his combined accumulation shall be increased by interest credits and ultimately applied towards providing an age retirement annuity, a disability annuity, a widow annuity or other death benefit as outlined herein.

In the event that the member who has become ineligible for further membership has previously entered upon a disability annuity which has terminated because of the recovery of the member, any such disability annuity payments shall reduce to that extent his withdrawal benefit.

No withdrawal privilege shall be permitted after a member attains the age of sixty-five.

## ARTICLE IX

### Mode of Payment of Contributions

The member contributions and the congregation contributions shall be due on the first day of each and every month but may be paid either monthly, quarterly, semiannually, or annually in advance. In case of any change in salary during a period for which remittance has been made, adjustment shall be made in the succeeding remittance. In case the member contribution or the congregation contribution is not paid within



thirty days from the due date, interest shall accrue from the due date to the time of payment at such rate as may be determined from time to time by the Pension Board.

## ARTICLE X

### Annuity Payments

All annuity payments shall be made in monthly installments at the end of the month. In the event that the accumulations available for providing an annuity when effective are not sufficient to provide an annuity equal to or greater than ten dollars per month, the Pension Board shall have the right to make quarterly payments in lieu of monthly payments or to make a settlement in cash in lieu of such annuity benefits.

## ARTICLE XI

### Supplemental Benefit Fund

A supplemental benefit fund shall be maintained which shall consist of—

(a) Accumulations or reserve released under the rules of the pension plan, (b) gifts from living and nonliving donors, (c) designated receipts through benevolence and (d) receipts from any other source not specially designated for other purposes.

There shall be paid from the supplemental benefit fund pension benefits additional to the regular annuities and other benefits provided for hereunder as determined from time to time by the Pension Board on the basis of the resources of the supplemental benefit fund available for such purposes.

## ARTICLE XII

### Contingent Fund

(a) A contingent fund shall be maintained which shall consist of—

1. Such amounts as may be deducted from the congregation or member contributions as provided in Article IV and from the additional optional contributions as provided in Article V.

2. The net gains on the sale or maturity of securities or any other investments.

3. Such portions of the income from investments as may be set aside by the Pension Board as reserve for future contingencies.

4. Such sums from other sources as may be allocated by the Pension Board to this fund.

(b) This fund shall be available for—

1. The net losses or depreciation on investments.

2. Appropriations by the Pension Board to supplement the income earned on invested funds.

3. Appropriations authorized by the Pension Board for designated purposes.

## ARTICLE XIII

### Operation of the Plan

#### Section A—Administration

(a) The pension plan shall be operated and administered by the Pension Board in accordance with this plan and such rules and regulations in harmony therewith as said Pension Board shall from time to time adopt. The Pension Board's construction and interpretation of any provision of this constitution or of such rules and regulations shall be binding on all parties, except that an appeal therefrom may be taken by any interested party to the Executive Committee of the Council of Boards of the Church and its decision shall be final.

(b) The Pension Board may delegate its duties and powers in respect to the administration of the pension plan to its committees, officers and agents. The action or decision of any such committee, officer or agent, within the scope of the duties and powers so delegated, shall be deemed the action or decision of the Pension Board, but shall be subject to review by the Pension Board in disputed cases. The Pension Board's decision upon such review shall be final.

(c) At the end of each five-year period of the operation of the pension plan, the Pension Board may readjust annuities or other benefits being paid or to be paid where such changes are deemed to be necessary to protect and preserve the actuarial and financial solvency of the pension plan on the basis of the experience as to mortality, disability, security of the principal of the invested funds and the rate of earnings thereon.

#### Section B—Liability

The funds and assets of the pension plan shall be and become liable to members, annuitants and other beneficiaries hereunder for the payment and discharge of their annuity and benefit claims in the manner and to the extent provided above, but in no event shall any liability accrue against the Conference of the Church of the Brethren for annuities, benefits, or other claims arising out of the establishment, maintenance, conduct and operation of the pension plan, nor shall any of the funds and assets of the Church, or of its boards or agencies, other than the funds and assets of the pension plan of the Pension Board, become subject to, or liable for, any such claim or other liability. No action shall ever be maintainable in any court of law or equity against the Conference of the Church of the Brethren to enforce such asserted claim or liability.

#### Section C—Investments

All funds of the pension plan shall be invested only upon the approval of the Pension Board or of its Finance Committee. Every such investment shall be promptly reported to the Council of Boards of the Church which shall ratify or disapprove such investment. Any investment dis-

approved by the Council of Boards shall be sold within a reasonable time after the communication of such disapproval to the Pension Board.

### Section D—Construction

This plan and the rules and regulations adopted hereunder, and the rights of members, annuitants and beneficiaries of the pension plan shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois.

## ARTICLE XIV

### Amendments

This plan may be amended by the Conference of the Church of the Brethren; provided that such amendment shall have been proposed (a) by the Pension Board, (b) by the Executive Committee of the Council of Boards, or (c) by written petition presented at the preceding Conference and signed by at least twenty-five delegates thereof, and provided further that the text of such amendment and the names of its sponsor or sponsors, shall have been published in three issues of the official church organ at least thirty days prior to the Conference at which action thereon is taken. Any amendment which, in the judgment of the Executive Committee of the Council of Boards, should be adopted before the next Conference may be adopted ad interim by the Executive Committee of the Council of Boards upon recommendation of the Pension Board, and any amendment so adopted shall be presented for ratification at the next Conference of the Church after similar advance publication in the official church organ. No amendment shall abridge or annul the rights of members in respect to their combined accumulations as of the date of the adoption of such amendment.

Illustrations of Annuity Provided Upon Retirement at Age 68 by credits to a Member's Account of \$100 a Year on the Joint-Life and Survivor (50% to Widow) Basis for a Man and Wife of the Same Age.

Entry Age	Accumulation of \$100 yearly at 68	Joint-Life and Survivor Annuity
25	\$8,548	\$670
26	8,202	643
27	7,866	617
28	7,540	591
29	7,223	566
30	6,916	543
31	6,617	519
32	6,328	496
33	6,046	474
34	5,773	453
35	5,508	432
36	5,250	412



37	5,000	392
38	4,758	373
39	4,522	355
40	4,293	337
41	4,071	319
42	3,855	302
43	3,646	286
44	3,443	270
45	3,245	254
46	3,054	239
47	2,868	225
48	2,687	211
49	2,512	197
50	2,341	184
51	2,176	171
52	2,016	158
53	1,860	146
54	1,709	134
55	1,562	122
56	1,419	111
57	1,281	100
58	1,146	90
59	1,016	80
60	889	70
61	766	60
62	647	51
63	531	42
64	418	33
65	309	24
66	203	16
67	100	8

BASIS—Interest at 3% per annum, compounded annually. Annuities payable in installments at end of each month 1937 Standard Annuity Table of Mortality with ages set back two years.

#### Conference Budget

The Council of Boards presents the following Budget for adoption [revised as per answer to Queries F and G]:

	A	B
	Yr. ending	Yr. ending
	Feb. 29, 1944	Feb. 28, 1945
General Mission Board .....	\$175,000.00	\$175,000.00
Board of Christian Education .....	23,250.00	26,300.00
General Ministerial Board .....	7,750.00	7,750.00

General Education Board .....	50,000.00	50,000.00
Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	29,500.00	29,500.00
Ministerial and Miss'y Serv. Fund .....	18,000.00	20,000.00
Missionary Service Loan Fund .....	2,000.00	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$305,500.00	\$308,550.00

Column B is the Council of Boards recommendation as to the Conference Budget for the year to end February 28, 1945.

Column A is presented only for comparative purposes.

Answer: Request granted.

#### **F. Budget Item for the Emergency Situation in Our Colleges**

The General Education Board through the Council of Boards is bringing to the attention of the Conference the emergency financial situation in our colleges and requests that \$60,000 be written into the current budget to end February 29, 1944. This sum is to help the colleges in their emergency for the two-year period March 1, 1942, to February 29, 1944. Furthermore, request is made that \$30,000 be written into the budget annually for the period of the duration. More specific details of the emergency and budgetary plans are to be presented to the delegates.

#### **G. College Emergency Funds**

We, the First church, Baltimore, through district meeting of Eastern Maryland, petition Annual Meeting of 1943 to take steps that will provide immediate funds necessary to tide our colleges over the present emergency.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer to Queries F and G. Request granted according to the following proposals from the Council of Boards:

1. That an advance of \$30,000.00 be granted to the General Education Board for the purpose of assisting our colleges in closing the current college year which ends during the summer of 1943.
2. That this sum be advanced immediately to the General Education Board from the current surpluses of the General Mission Board and the Brethren Service Committee as a non-interest-bearing note.
3. That the sum of \$45,000.00 be added to the Conference Budget of 1943-44 and a similar amount included in the budget of 1944-45 for the General Education Board to be used as follows:
  - a. To the current expenses of our colleges in each of these two years  
\$30,000.00
  - b. To the liquidation of the loan from the General Mission Board and the Brethren Service Committee in each of these two years  
\$15,000.00

4. That the General Mission Board, the Brethren Service Committee and the General Education Board share in the giving of the church in proportion to their budget askings. Any excess will be divided according to need as proposed by the Council of Boards and approved by Annual Conference.
5. That the colleges be requested to assist in their respective regions with the promotion of the total giving program of the church for all General Boards and committees in such manner as may be determined by the agencies concerned.
6. That since the item in the Conference Budget for our colleges represents only a fractional part of their decreased income, the districts and congregations of the respective college regions be urged to include the colleges in their local budgets for amounts commensurate with their giving to other major interests of the church. The item in the Conference Budget for our colleges is intended as a supplement to the income of the colleges and not as a substitution for the aid from the local congregations, districts or regions.

#### **Brethren Service Budget**

Recommend approval of the Brethren Service budget for the year ending Feb. 28, 1944, of a minimum of \$350,000.00.

Answer: Request granted.

#### **Church Investment Committee**

The General Mission Board has for many years carried the major responsibility of investing most of the permanent funds of the church. In late years this task has become heavier and gives promise of becoming more so in the future.

Believing thoroughly that this is a responsibility in which the best counsel, guidance, and advice of the whole church should be sought, we recommend to Conference through the Standing Committee the formation of a Church Investment Committee. This committee shall be composed of seven members selected as follows:

- 2 members appointed by and from the General Mission Board,
- 1 member appointed by and from the General Ministerial Board,
- 1 member appointed by and from the Brethren Service Committee,
- 1 member appointed by and from the General Education Board.

The above appointees are to serve for a period of one year. In addition, two members are to be selected by Annual Conference to serve alternately for a period of two years.

This committee shall, at such times as it may desire, recommend to the General Mission Board the broad investment policies for funds of the church handled by the General Mission Board. It shall on request of the



General Mission Board direct and supervise the work of the local investment committee of the General Mission Board.

Answer: Request granted. Committee: W. Newton Long, Frank S. Carper, Edgar Rothrock, Paul H. Bowman, V. F. Schwalm; Floyd Yearout, 1945; Ira Milton Hoover, 1944.

#### **Loans to Parish Farmers**

The General Mission Board petitions Annual Conference through Standing Committee to authorize long-term financing of purchase of farms in order to strengthen and build our rural churches. The funds to come only from bequests and lapsed annuities, the use of which is left to Board discretion.

Subject to the above, the Board will at once set aside a fund of \$50,000.00 as a revolving loan fund to be used for this purpose.

Answer: Request granted.

#### **Forms for Installation of Deacons**

Whereas the form for the installation of deacons which was adopted in 1919 (see Revised Minutes, pages 88, 89) does not seem fully suitable in the light of the decisions of 1935 and 1942, seeing that the Conference of 1942 authorized that a form of installation for deacons be provided (see Minutes of 1942, page 5, (8), c), and inasmuch as such revision should be made before the publication of another manual,

We, the General Ministerial Board, hereby submit the following forms for the two degrees in the deaconship, subject to the advice of this Conference:

[After slight revision the report was adopted as follows:]

##### **A. For the Office on Trial**

(Page 86 and the first two lines on page 87 of the Pastor's Manual without change.)

Dear Brother: You have been called to the office of deacon for a probationary period (1 Tim. 3: 10). Your status is somewhat comparable to the licentiate in the ministry. Your office is a worthy one and demands your most conscientious service. You are called to special work in the church, and as such you will have a larger influence among the members and in the sight of the world than otherwise. We trust that you will, by your sincere and faithful life and your loyalty to the teachings and practices of the church, reflect credit on the body of Christ. You are called upon to co-operate with the older officials of the church in looking after the material arrangements for the ordinances, providing for the poor, visiting the sick and delinquent, and in promoting the general welfare of the congregation.

Dear Sister: You likewise are called into a very definite service in the

church. You are called to assist in the material arrangements for the ordinances, and should be willing to labor for the spiritual interests of the church.

(Questions middle of page 88, as now.)

(The brother and sister shall then kneel in a prayer of mutual consecration, led by the officiating elder, or elders.)

#### B. For the Permanent Office

(Page 86, first paragraph, in the Pastor's Manual.)

This, the.....(name of church) having called..... (names of brother and sister) to the office of deacon for a probationary period (1 Tim. 3: 10), has, after "proving" them, full confidence in their faithfulness, loyalty, wisdom, and spirituality, and has therefore called them to the permanent office and work of the deacon. They will therefore rise to receive their charge:

Dear Brother: The church having called you to serve as deacon for a probationary period, has found you faithful and efficient in your calling, and now, in confidence in your fidelity and integrity, proposes to advance you to the full deaconship, to serve as long as you prove useful to the church in your official capacity, as defined by General Conference.

While the apostolic injunction, "Ye younger submit yourselves to the elder" (1 Peter 5: 5), still applies to you, suggesting deference to those duly called to leadership among the officials, yet you should now assume the duties of your office in full, as the Lord may give you grace and wisdom.

You should be diligent and skillful in preparing the material setting for baptisms and communion services, being zealous that "everything be done decently, and in order" (1 Cor. 14: 40), and the sacraments made real means of grace to the believers.

You are charged to administer wisely other temporal interests committed to your care, such as the needs of the poor and unfortunate, and the work outlined as "Brethren Service" by the General Conference, so that the "increase of the Word of God, and of the number of disciples" shall follow as it did in the days of the apostles (Acts 6: 7). You should also be willing to assume any other duties of trusteeship or obligation which the church may deem wise to place upon you.

You should be diligent in visiting the members, especially the sick, needy, and delinquent, as directed by the ministers and other officials, or in your own right according to the usage of the church. You are authorized to assist in the anointing service, or do the anointing in your own right when no ministers are available and the case is urgent. You may also assist the minister at baptismal and communion services when requested by him, and are authorized to take charge of the regular

appointments of the church, "at the request of the minister, in his absence."

Finally, your counsel and co-operation should be given generously and discreetly to the official board of the church in its supervising ministry to the body of Christ, "for the perfecting of the saints, and the building up of the body in the unity of the faith" (Eph. 4: 12-13).

Dear Sister: You have shared in the confidence the church now expresses, as the result of your service during the probationary period. While not called to be a deaconess in your own right, as Phoebe was (Rom. 16: 1), yet your office as your husband's helper is a very important one as defined by this permanent charge. The church authorizes and expects you to assist in the material preparations for love feasts and baptisms, and all other duties of your position. You should be willing to labor for the spiritual interests of the church, in visiting the sick and giving comfort and help wherever needed. You should use your special opportunity to be an example to the other sisters of the church, and to lead them to the higher spiritual life of the church (1 Tim. 3: 11). Your attitude in general will determine much as to whether your husband will "serve well as a deacon, and purchase to himself a good degree and great boldness in the faith" (1 Tim. 3: 13).

(Take reaffirmation of faith on basis of questions bottom of page 86 of the Pastor's Manual, 1940 edition.)

(Take reaffirmation of consecration vows on basis of questions page 88 of the Pastor's Manual, 1940 edition.)

Pursuant to your call by the church, and your acceptance of this charge, you are now directed to the throne of grace for the enduement of power from on high through the laying on of hands.

(Brother and sister kneel, while elders lay hands on him and pray.)

At the conclusion of the prayer, and after the brother and the sister have risen, the officiating elder may say, "I now declare you duly set apart in your sacred office and extend the right hand of fellowship, and co-operation."

## 1944, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

### Function of the Moderator, and Denominational Organization

#### *Query, 1942*

Whereas, there is need for the establishment of a policy to govern the selection of moderators of Annual Conference, and for a definition of the function of the same; and, whereas, the simplification and integration of the over-all organization of our church appears desirable, we, the



Harrisonburg congregation of Northern Virginia, petition the Annual Conference of 1943, through the District Conference of Northern Virginia, to appoint a committee of five to make a comprehensive study of (1) the problems relating to the choice and function of the moderators of Annual Conference; and (2) the over-all organization of our church with a view to simplification and integration—and to bring recommendations concerning these questions to the Annual Conference of 1944.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer: Request granted. Referred to the Committee for Study of Home Missions with two added members. Committee: Charles D. Bon-sack, J. W. Lear, N. A. Seese, James M. Moore, Ross D. Murphy.

Answer of 1944: Sections I and III referred back to the committee for further study and report. Section II was adopted as revised and amended.

### *Report of Committee, 1944*

#### II. The Conference Moderator

The duties of the moderator of Annual Conference were limited to presiding at the regular and interim sessions of the Standing Committee and the Conference. In recent years, however, he has served as an ex-officio member of the Annual Conference Program Committee.

In order to give the moderator greater leadership opportunity, we submit the following duties:

Duties:

1. He shall preside over all sessions of Standing Committee and of Annual Conference. He shall be regarded as the official representative of the church and shall be authorized to represent the church in such capacity and to sign such reports, documents and statements as require the signature of the moderator.
2. He shall have authority to call special sessions of the Standing Committee, after clearly stating the purpose of such meetings, and securing the signed consent of a majority of the members. He may, with the concurrence of a two-thirds majority of Standing Committee, call special sessions of the Annual Conference, including delegates from the churches, when extreme emergency demands it.
3. He shall be a member of the Conference Program Committee.
4. He shall be an ex-officio member of the Council of Boards, unless he is already a regular member.
5. He may attend district, regional and other brotherhood conferences.
6. He may attend denominational and interdenominational meetings which may be of profit to our brotherhood.
7. He shall include in his Conference address some of the high points

in his year's work that should be brought to the attention of the church.

*Election.* He shall be elected by Standing Committee following this procedure: The officers of the meeting shall set forth the qualifications and duties of the moderator. Then names of elders shall be put in nomination, with appropriate introduction by the one presenting each name, after which the members of Standing Committee shall vote by ballot. A majority will be necessary to elect. An alternate moderator shall be chosen by the same procedure on a separate ballot. The election shall be subject to the approval of Conference.

*Term of Office.* The moderator shall assume office immediately after the Conference which elects him and serve through the succeeding Annual Conference. He shall not serve more than one term in five years.

*Expense and Remuneration.* Unless the church or institution regularly employing him provides his time, he shall be remunerated for his service at the rate of \$5.00 per day. This amount, along with other expenses incurred, shall be paid by the treasurer of Annual Conference.

At the adoption of this report, all Annual Conference decisions conflicting will automatically be repealed.

Committee: C. D. Bonsack, Chairman; Norman A. Seese, Secretary; J. W. Lear; James M. Moore; Ross D. Murphy.

### **Uniformity in the Church Year**

#### *Query, 1943*

Whereas: It is generally accepted that the church year as a denomination begins March 1; the pastoral year September 1; the Sunday-school year October 1; and the fiscal year of the local church at various times;

Whereas: This condition causes a great deal of confusion in making reports, in co-ordinating the work of the local church with related denominational and interdenominational agencies;

We, the Meyersdale congregation, ask Annual Conference through the district conference of Western Pennsylvania, to give this matter consideration with a view to a greater simplification of affairs, seeking to bring the beginning of all these "years" to as nearly as possible the same date.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer: Request granted. Referred to a committee to study the problem and bring a report to the next regular Conference. Committee: H. L. Hartsough, Chairman; Raymond R. Peters; H. Spenser Minnich.

#### *Report of Committee (revised), 1944*

Your committee has made a study of the problem referred to us by the McPherson Conference. It seems to us that the pastoral year beginning September 1 and the church school year beginning October 1 should continue as at present.

We decide to recommend to local churches the adoption of March 1 as the beginning date for the financial year which will coincide with the brotherhood financial year.

We commend to district boards consideration of March 1 as the date to begin the district fiscal year.

H. L. Hartsough, Raymond R. Peters, H. Spenser Minnich.

Answer of Conference: Report adopted.

### **Revision of Tenure of Office**

The York church requests Annual Conference of 1944 through the district meeting of Southern Pennsylvania to amend the Annual Conference ruling of 1940 on Report of Committee on Tenure of Office, by striking out Section 3-C, which makes it impossible for a General Board member to serve more than two consecutive terms.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer: We adhere to our present policy but exceptions may be allowed if approved by a two-thirds vote of Standing Committee and Annual Conference.

### **Church-Letter Form**

#### *Queries, 1943*

B. Since it seems to have become the usage of the church to transfer membership of inactive members to other congregations, and since the present form of letter of membership refers only to members in good standing, we, the Yakima church of Yakima, Washington, ask the district conference to pass to Annual Conference the request that a letter to be used in the transfer of inactive members be formed and authorized by the Annual Conference.

Passed to Annual Conference.

C. Inasmuch as the use of our official church-letter form necessitates the issuing of letters of transfer which employ terminology so frequently untrue to the facts, i.e., stating that a brother or a sister is "in fellowship with the church at this place" when, in many circumstances, such an one has not been in the immediate fellowship of the church granting the letter, for months or years, we, the Long Beach church, assembled in regular council April 19, 1942, petition the Annual Conference of 1943, through the District Meeting of Southern California and Arizona, to authorize the preparation and adoption of a new church-letter form.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer to Queries B and C: Request granted. Referred to the General Ministerial Board for study and report to the next regular Conference.



*Report of General Ministerial Board, 1944*

Whereas the form for issuing letters of transfer in the Church of the Brethren does not always denote the proper standing of the members, we, the General Ministerial Board, hereby submit the following revised form for the church-letter form, subject to the advice of this Conference:

**CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP**

No..... Date.....

.....  
Name of Congregation Address

To Whom This May Concern, Greeting:

This is to certify that

.....  
.....member.. of the Church of the Brethren (.....)  
office

and a member of the congregation at this place, and as such we commend  
.....to the love and care of those to whom this may be  
presented.

Deacons:

.....  
.....

Ministers:

.....  
.....

Name of Elder or Pastor: .....

Name of Clerk: .....

Address: .....

Answer of 1944: Report adopted as amended.

**Publication of Annual Meeting Minutes**

*Query, 1943*

The Board of Administration of the Middle District of Maryland recommends that the district conference of 1943 ask Annual Conference to authorize the publication of Annual Meeting Minutes of 1922-1942 in some convenient form with the necessary revision, classification and condensation. We suggest that it become the policy of the church to publish the Conference Minutes regularly in ten-year cycles and that the publication requested in this paper be adjusted to such a plan.

Passed to Conference.

Answer: Request granted. Referred to the General Ministerial Board

and the General Mission Board (as Directors of the Publishing House) for execution.

#### *Report of Committee, 1944*

The two boards mentioned above appointed the undersigned as a committee to edit these minutes. Because the latest revision includes the minutes of 1922 we suggest the new publication begin with 1923 and that it include the minutes of 1943 and 1944. If the supply of paper and binder board will allow, the work will be completed during the year.

H. L. Hartsough, J. E. Miller, Ora W. Garber.

Answer of Conference: Report approved.

#### **Study of Higher Education**

Whereas, higher education is passing through a crisis that may require extensive adjustments, and

Whereas, church-related colleges in general, and Brethren colleges in particular, face problems that affect not only the finances, the curriculum and student enrollment but also the institutional life and the very nature of the colleges themselves;

Therefore, we, the Washington City church in council assembled, ask Annual Meeting of 1943, through district meeting of Eastern Maryland, to appoint a special committee of five to make a careful study of the entire program of higher education in the Church of the Brethren, and to bring specific recommendations to the next Conference.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Since the General Education Board is planning a study such as is herein called for this query is referred to them for study and report.

Answer of 1944: Report of progress approved as included in the report of the General Education Board.

#### **Mardela, a New District**

We, the Bethany, Denton, Green Hill, Ridgely and Peach Blossom congregations of the Church of the Brethren, located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Delaware, have been granted permission by our respective districts, Eastern Maryland and Eastern Pennsylvania, to organize into a district. This organization has taken place at our district meeting held in the Denton church on April 19, 1944.

We therefore respectfully ask recognition as a district and the seating of our representative, Elder Walter K. Mahan.

Walter K. Mahan, Moderator; Harry H. Ziegler, Clerk.

Answer: Request granted.

#### **Fraternal Relations Committee Enlarged**

The Brethren Service Committee requests Annual Conference through Standing Committee to grant them a representative on the Fraternal Relations Committee.

Answer: Request granted and the Fraternal Relations Committee is enlarged to include this representative.

#### **Standard of Stewardship**

We, the Buena Vista church, in regular council assembled March 26, 1944, ask the district conference to consider the expediency of our denomination putting herself on record as favoring the tithe as a basis of the financial stewardship of her money.

John T. Glick, Elder; Mrs. Herbert Nuckol, Clerk.

Answer by District Conference: We pass this query to Annual Conference with the recommendation that the principle of proportional giving, with the tithe as the suggested minimum, be considered for inclusion in the statement of Christian practice of our church.

Answer: Annual Conference approved the answer given by the District Conference.

#### **Voting Body of India District Meeting**

1. Inasmuch as the church in India must now assume a larger measure of responsibility for carrying on the work in the India mission field, therefore in order that the district meeting voting body may be more continuous and better able to understand the problems of the church and meet the increased responsibilities, the Second District of India, in meeting assembled at Dahanu on Feb. 7, 1944, petitions Annual Conference to permit elders and pastors to sit as delegates in district meeting along with those duly elected from the churches.

D. J. Bhonsole, Marathi Secretary; Goldie E. Swartz, English Secretary.

2. Since the church in India is preparing to assume greater responsibility for managing the work in the India mission field, therefore, in order that the voting body of district meeting be partially continuous and better able to meet the increased responsibility and understand the work of the church as a whole, the First District of India in meeting assembled at Vyara on Feb. 16-18, 1944, petitions Annual Conference of 1944 to permit the elders and pastors of this district to sit as delegates in district meeting along with the duly elected delegates from the churches.

Secretary, R. M. Christian; Chairman, J. M. Blough.

Answer: Request granted for the districts of India for a period of five years.

#### **Brethren Service Committee Budget**

The Council of Boards recommends to the Annual Conference through Standing Committee that the Brethren Service Budget for the year ending Feb. 28, 1946, be \$420,000.

Answer: Recommendation adopted.



### Conference Budget

The Council of Boards presents the following budget for adoption for the year ending February 28, 1946:

General Mission Board .....	\$249,450
Board of Christian Education .....	28,300
General Ministerial Board .....	7,750
General Education Board .....	5,000
General Education Board (College Emergency) .....	30,000
Bethany Biblical Seminary .....	29,500
Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund .....	30,000
	<hr/>
	\$380,000

Answer: Budget adopted.

### Revision of Current Budget

The Council of Boards in session April 18, 1944, considered increasing the Conference Budget for the year ending Feb. 28, 1945, but voted to make no change except to recommend that the brotherhood be asked to oversubscribe \$308,550, which is the budget now in effect.

### A Reserve Pension Fund

We, the Ministerial Board of the First Church of the Brethren, Dayton, Ohio, petition Annual Conference, through the district conference of Southern Ohio, to appoint a committee to study the needs for raising a reserve pension fund of at least \$100,000 to strengthen the present pension plan as it is now constituted. Almost all of the major denominations have raised large sums of money for their pension plans so as to put them on a sound financial basis. Said committee, if the evidence so justifies, is to be clothed with power to act and prepare plans for the raising of a reserve fund for the above-stated purpose.

Norman B. Wine, Elder; Herman B. Shellabarger, Clerk.

Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer: Request granted. The Pension Board is to be the committee.

### Concerning the 1945 Conference

Standing Committee recommends that a full Conference be held next year if it can be arranged; if not, that the Program Committee give study to the need of ample time for the business sessions. The officers are to decide as to a full Conference.

Answer: Recommendation adopted.

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